CNHSS Bulletin

Issue 176 Autumn 2023

Bulletin of the
Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society

Climate Change

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ISSN 0309-6149
Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Limited
A company limited by guarantee registered in London No. 922278
Registered Office: 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AD
Registered charity No. 260739
For ways of contacting the Society online see box on back cover

COVER IMAGE – Europe weather map – see article page 5

Copy date for submission of articles for our Spring Bulletin is 6th February 2024: bulletin@cnhss.co.uk

Members' contributions, letters etc. are welcome.

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Your Society Needs You
Interested? – please contact: information@cnhss.co.uk

Council
Would you like to serve as a member of our Council? You may have special interests or abilities which would enhance our effectiveness.
Meets seven times per year plus arranged 'strategy' days.

Committees
You may wish to apply your expertise on one of our Committees without necessarily joining Council. Finance, Library and Museum, Premises and Publicity Committees generally meet four times per year.

Investment Advisor
Is there a qualified Investment Advisor willing to give advice to Council?

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To steer our external presence including Social Media.

Leaders for outings/walks/visits
Open to any member who fancies putting together an event or events – could end at a hostelry. Perhaps something for our 'Celia Bailey Annual Expedition'?

If you are interested in any of the above
Please contact information@cnhss.co.uk

Subscriptions for 2024 are due on 1 January 2024
- Ordinary Members and Group Members £18
- Associate Members £10 (only if same address as an Ordinary or Life Member)
- Life Membership £250 Email address: membership@cnhss.co.uk

Membership can be paid as follows:
- At the Focus event on Saturday 25th November, by cash or cheque.
- By cheque payable to 'CNHSS'. Send to: Membership, CNHSS, 96A Brighton Road, South Croydon CR2 6AD.
- By Standing Order. Please request a form by email or post (see above). If you already pay by Standing Order, please don't send a cheque as well.

Please pay before the Spring mailing so that we don't need to send a reminder.

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Editorial
by Ian Payne

On the cover is a weather map to remind us, as if we needed reminding, that the Earth is in uncharted Climate Change territory. My article is on page 5.

John Hickman and Carole Roberts have been busy organising an exhibition of paintings of Croydon by Evacustes Phipson under the banner of Croydon's London Borough of Culture 2023 event. It's currently showing in the foyer of Croydon Clocktower (to 27th September). See page 20.

There are two articles touching on Croydon's Open Spaces (pages 10 and 35). The latter is a report by Carole Roberts on the 'Croydon Open Spaces Exhibition' at Old Palace on 29th October 2022 which gives their history with 30 images for acquisitions up to 1939 and listings of 24 others. However there are well over 100 shown on Croydon's current 'Green Croydon' map.

As promised following last issue's announcement, there is a full obituary of Paul Rainey who served as a Director and our Treasurer for many years.

There is, as usual, a variety of articles submitted by members. Increasingly, members with a passion are sending in articles on their favourite research topics. Why don't you have a go – contact: bulletin@cnhss.co.uk.

We're still looking to fill various posts – not necessarily on Council – see 'Your Society Needs You' on page 3. There's an exciting opportunity for a Web Designer for a new website project. Subscriptions for 2024 are due on 1st January 2024 – see page 3 for details.

CNHSS New Facebook Page
by Jorn Cooper

The new 'Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society' facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/groups/cnhandssoc2023/. We have had to create a new Facebook page due to technical issues. The Legacy page will still be accessible by viewers for the original photos, however no updates can be made. The new page already has a host of documents and photo albums and we hope you will enjoy engaging with our Society through this medium.

Climate Change — Global Warming
by Ian Payne

We all know that the weather isn't normal, hence, by way of introduction, the weather map on the cover of this issue. Below, I look at some of the consequences of Global Warming and what Governments are doing to combat it. Governments are stuck between a rock and a hard place. If they do anything precipitously they risk reduction in standards of living and loss of power at the next election. Yet the people increasingly want something to be done, but are they prepared to take the economic consequences? The environmental activist group 'Just Stop Oil' are asking the British government to commit to ending new fossil fuel licensing and production. However, the Government has recently announced that they intend to approve over 100 such licences with the reasoning that while we're still using oil, it's better to have home grown than to suffer the cost of importation. Even the possibility of new coal fields hasn't been eliminated.

In November 2021, the COP26 conference met in Glasgow (COP stands for Conference of the Parties). It reaffirmed the target of keeping the global temperature within 1.5°C of Earth's pre-industrial levels. It looks increasingly likely that this target will not be met and that temperatures will rise above this level before the end of the century. The consequences are scary.

Climate change is a global issue that affects every region of the world. Countries are experiencing significant changes in their climate patterns, which have wide-ranging implications for various sectors such as agriculture, industry, health, and the environment. These changes are primarily attributed to the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, mainly carbon dioxide, caused by human activities.

When I was at school some 60 years ago, we were taught that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 0.300‰. In May 2023 it reached 0.412‰, the highest ever recorded. It was 0.280‰ at the beginning of the industrial age. That's a 47% increase (37% in the last 60 years) in the gas that is trapping the heat we generate and not letting it escape into space.

One of the most noticeable impacts of climate change is the rise in temperatures. The world has been experiencing warmer years, with a rise in the average temperature by about 1.4 degrees Celsius since the industrial revolution. This change not only affects the everyday lives of people, making summers hotter and winters milder, but also has several consequences for the environment. It has led to an increasing number of wildfires globally, the

melting of glaciers and ice caps and a reduction in snow cover, impacting the availability of water resources and leading to the loss of habitat for many plant and animal species.

Another significant impact of climate change is the change in precipitation patterns. Although the overall average precipitation may not have changed significantly, there has been an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall and floods. These events can lead to significant damage to infrastructure, disruption of transportation, and economic losses. Additionally, changes in precipitation patterns also affect agriculture, with some areas experiencing droughts and others excessive rainfall, which reduces food production and affects crop yields. Furthermore, climate change also poses a threat to coastal regions due to sea-level rise.

As the global temperature increases, the melting of ice sheets and glaciers contributes to rising sea levels. These effects and changing precipitation patterns have the potential to increase the risk of coastal erosion, storm surges, and flooding, endangering coastal communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Given these impacts, many countries have recognized the urgency to address climate change and have taken steps to mitigate its effects. Mitigation includes setting targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to increase the share of renewable energy sources. Moreover, countries are investing in climate adaptation measures to minimize the risks associated with climate change and protect vulnerable communities and ecosystems. All these change, and more, will be needed to ensure a sustainable future for mankind and our cohabitants on the planet.

The UK Government's main climate change policy document is the 'Net Zero Strategy (Build Back Greener)' (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy) which sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet the Government's net zero emissions (achieving a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it) of greenhouse gasses by 2050. Policies include setting legally binding carbon reduction targets, promoting renewable energy and implementing policies to phase out coal power, encouraging electric vehicles (the sale of new petrol or diesel cars to be phased out by 2030), enhancing energy efficiency in buildings, and investing in clean technologies. In 2020, 43% of UK power come from a mix of wind, solar, bioenergy and hydroelectric sources – it has to get much higher.

Sources

Confirmation of data and ideas from various online sources including *Google*, *Wikipedia* and *ChatGPT*.

What is a mushroom?
by Jane McLauchlin

Every autumn we have at least one “Autumn Fruits and Fungi” Ecology walk. Often, someone asks “What is a mushroom? Is it the same as a fungus? And what about toadstools? Are toadstools the poisonous ones?” These questions do not have straightforward answers.

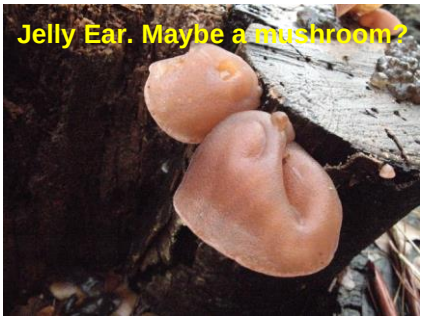
Fungi are classified as a Kingdom and are not plants or animals. Most fungus identification guides, for example Sterry & Hughes (1), include a brief description of fungus classification and biology. Mushrooms and toadstools are terms which were used by the 16th century. *The grete herball* of 1526 says “fungi ben mussherons…there be two maners of them, one maner is deedly and sleeth them that eateth of them and be called tode stoles, and the other doeth not” (quoted from (2)).

Ramsbottom (2) uses “toadstool” in a general sense to include all fungi with a cap, stem and gills, and “mushroom” for edible *Psalliota* (now *Agaricus*), including the Field-mushroom, Horse-mushroom and other species. However, since the 1950s a much wider range of fungi have become easily available in supermarkets, fresh and dried, including Ceps or Porcini (*Boletus*), Shiitake (*Lentinula edodes)* and Oyster Mushrooms (*Pleurotus*). Spooner & Roberts (3) consider that there is no real distinction between mushrooms and toadstools, and in a sense, mushrooms are just edible toadstools, although mycologists still often restrict “mushroom” to edible species of *Agaricus*, as did Ramsbottom.

Recently I came across some notes from a foray in Spring Park in 2005. Someone asked the mushroom question, and as it was a dry day with not many fungi in evidence, we discussed each fungus we found and considered whether it could be described as a mushroom. After much discussion, this group arrived at a consensus. Any mushroom-shaped fungus, with a stem, cap, and gills or pores under the cap, is a mushroom, whether it is edible, poisonous, or just not worth eating. Anything else is not a mushroom, unless it is edible. The group agreed that puffballs, which do not have a cap or gills, are mushrooms, because of familiarity with the idea of eating Giant Puffballs (although most had never seen a Giant Puffball). But Earthballs, superficially similar in appearance to Puffballs, but not edible, are not mushrooms. The only uncertainty was about the Jelly Ear, which can be eaten, but was thought to be of unappetising appearance. All other fungi, including brackets, and spots, streaks and blobs on leaves or branches, were universally agreed not to be mushrooms.

There was no consensus on Toadstools. Do they have to be brightly coloured, or poisonous? The group had already decided that mushroom-shaped fungi are all mushrooms, so can a fungus be both a mushroom AND a toadstool? It was suggested that the Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*), with a red cap with white spots, not found on this foray but familiar to all at least from pictures, is a toadstool, or even THE Toadstool, although it is a mushroom-shaped fungus with a stem, cap and gills.

NB I am not recommending eating any of these fungi. However, I have tried Jelly Ear, but was not impressed with its flavour or texture!



		Brief description	
			Is it a Mushroom?
Auricularia auricula-judae	Jelly Ear	Small soft bracket, usually on elder	maybe
Boletus badius	Bay Bolete	Mushroom-shaped, pores underneath	yes
Daedaleopsis confragosa	Blushing Bracket	Thin hard bracket	no
Diatrype disciformis	Beech Barkspot	Black spots on dead wood	no

		Brief description	
			Is it a Mushroom?
Gymnopus dryophilus	Russet Toughshank	Mushroom-shaped, gills underneath	yes
Gymnopus fusipes	Spindleshank	Mushroom-shaped, gills underneath, in clusters	yes
Hymenochaete rubiginosa	Oak Curtain Crust	Small thin bracket	no
Lycoperdon pyriforme	Stump Puffball	Puffball on dead, often buried wood	yes
Macrolepiota procera	Parasol	Tall, mushroom-shaped, gills underneath	yes
Marasmius rotula	Collared Parachute	Tiny, mushroom-shaped, on dead twigs	yes
Mycena galericulata	Common Bonnet	Slender, mushroom-shaped, gills underneath	yes
Piptoporus betulinus	Birch Polypore	Fat white bracket, on birch	no
Pluteus cervinus	Deer Shield	Mushroom-shaped, gills underneath, on dead wood	yes
Pluteus salicinus	Willow Shield	Mushroom-shaped, gills underneath, on dead wood	yes
Postia stiptica	Bitter Bracket	Whitish soft bracket, on conifer logs	no
Rhopographus filicinus	Bracken Map	Black streaks on dead bracken stems	no
Scleroderma citrinum	Common Earthball	Almost spherical fungus with warty surface, on ground	no
Stereum hirsutum	Hairy Curtain Crust	Thin leathery bracket	no
Trametes versicolor	Turkeytail	Thin leathery bracket	no
Trochila ilicina	Holly Speckle	Black spots on fallen holly leaves	no

References

1. Paul Sterry and Barry Hughes (2009) Complete Guide to British Mushrooms and Toadstools. Collins, London.
2. John Ramsbottom (1953) Mushrooms & Toadstools. New Naturalist 7. Collins, London.
3. Brian Spooner and Peter Roberts (2005) Fungi. New Naturalist 96. Collins, London.

Croydon Green Spaces Open Day
by Carole A Roberts

On 3rd June 2023 CNHSS was represented at Croydon Libraries' Green Spaces Open Day, held on the ground floor of Croydon Clocktower.

(left to right)
Nicola Hunt (Director)
Carole Roberts (President)

Croydon Deputy Civic Mayor
Dawn Gibbons, Croydon Library
Carole Roberts (President)
John Hickman (Director)

Other societies represented were Croydon RSPB, TCV, the London Wildlife Trust, the Bourne Society, Wandle Industrial Museum (who gave a talk in the afternoon), the Friends of Shirley Windmill, Local author (and CNHSS Director) Pam Buttrey, Croydon Climate Action (their tree campaign is at www.croydonclimateaction.com/campaigns), Downlands Partnership, the Downlands Trust, Friends of Farthing Downs and Happy Valley (CNHSS Director Ian Payne and Members Pauline Payne and Graham Lomas), Croydon Community Gardens, U3A and Croydon COPSE.

Cane Hill Stall
Pam Buttrey (CNHSS Director)
Croydon Deputy Civic Mayor

FoFD & HV Stall
Ian Payne (CNHSS Director)
Croydon Deputy Civic Mayor

The event was visited by the Deputy Civic Mayor, Councillor Appu Srinivasan.

The Society's Emblem
by Christopher JW Taylor

In July 2022, whilst on our way to the Dordogne, France, my wife and I stopped in Bordeaux and we took the opportunity to visit the Musée d'Aquitaine. During our visit I chanced upon a display case which contained the artefact at Figure 1. It struck me as very similar to that used as the Society's emblem (Figure 2, in Croydon Museum) and prompted the following study.

Figure 1. Bordeaux Museum Figure 2. Croydon Museum (Welch, 2000, 145)

The Bordeaux Museum artefact, which is unprovenanced, is described as: "Merovingian, with triscele cut-out. Dates from the end of the 5th to the beginning of the 7th century. The triscele is a motif with three curved branches suggesting a sort of gyratory movement, the ends of which are here decorated with an animal head with an open mouth and an ocellus eye". Croydon Museum has a somewhat similar description for its object: "Saxon bronze object, AD 400 – 700, wheel-shaped, bronze, with three spokes in the shape of snakes".

The artefact in Figure 2 was found during the 1893-1894 excavations of the early Saxon cemetery at Edridge Road, Croydon. It is c. 4cm in diameter. Two such objects were found. The second, in Figure 3, was acquired by the British Museum in 1895. It was illustrated by Griffith's (1897, Figure 4, 23) and by Shaw (1970, Figure 11, 102). Shaw described it as having an irregularly worn outer rim with segmented animal neck. It is 6.1cm in diameter, and thus significantly larger than the other Croydon example.

Shaw (1970, 105) pointed out that the three spoke design is very rare in the UK. We also describe our logo-artefact as “rare” on our website and this certainly seems to be the case. From an extensive web-search I have only found six examples with similar designs: two from Croydon (per Griffith, 1897, 23, Shaw 1970, 105), one from Bordeaux, one in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, one from Swindon in the British Museum and one in the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

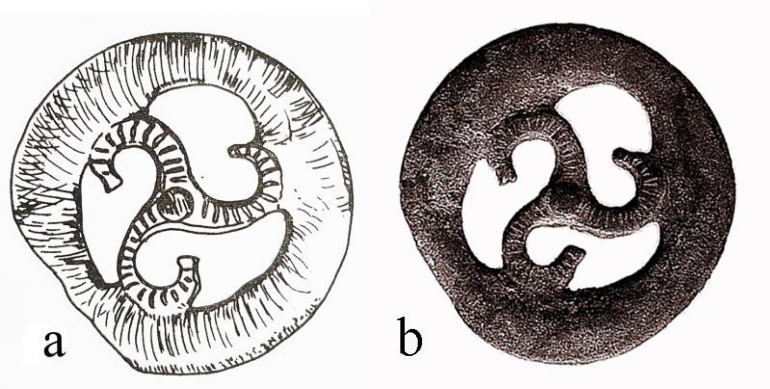


Figure 3. The second of the two triscelic objects from 1893/4 Edridge Road excavation. 3a. Drawing from Figure 11, Shaw, 1970. 3b. Photographic image from the British Museum collection, accession no. 1895,0313.41. Copper alloy. (Image from British Museum website – *see References:*
© The Trustees of the British Museum**)**

Figure 4. Another object with triscelic design, found in Northern France dated to c. 7th Century. C. 6cm diameter, copper alloy. From the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (the “Met”). Accession number 17.192.159. Compare to Figure 1. (Image on Open Access per the Museum website).

Figure 5. Accession no. 2014,8021.1, British Museum © The Trustees of the British Museum**.** Dia. 6.4cm. https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_2014-8021-1

Figure 4 is very similar to that in Bordeaux. Figure 5 is almost featureless and very flat. The ring is particularly wide. The British Museum says this is possibly Anglo-Saxon, found in Swindon, of c. 5th – 7th century date. It is described as a "circular copper alloy mount or ornament, cast, with an open-work triscele design. Each arm of the triscele connects to the surrounding disc by a small projection. A small depression marks the centre of the triscele. The surfaces are otherwise plain and undecorated on both sides. The mount is not perfectly flat, the edges being slightly convex from the front. There is no evidence of an attachment mechanism on the back". An object, almost identical to Figure 5, found in Wiltshire in 2012 (Portable Antiquities Scheme number WILT-B3ACF6 – see References) is also described as mystifying and possibly a pendant ornament or a mount from a bag.

What was the function of the Croydon artefact?

Bordeaux and the Met say their examples were chatelaines, used as a type of key ring, suspended from a person's waist. The British Museum describes its Croydon object as a copper alloy circular pendant or possibly a strap distributor; Croydon Museum seems to follow the BM: "for joining three straps together or perhaps for hanging from a belt". No definite function is given for the BM's second similar object (Figure 5), only: "Mount?, Ornament?" and as "mystifying" but bringing to mind Merovingian 'Zierscheiben' discs. In McKinley's article on the excavation (2003,61, Table 1) the Croydon Museum example is just listed as a "Cu (copper) trefoil object".

The above is repeated in the literature; Shaw (1970,105) added that the actual purpose of these openwork disks is not certain. She described them under the section of her article on "Personal Ornaments: Brooches".

The central, three-section design of the two Croydon objects, based loosely on an animal head motif, is broadly similar to other examples. However, they are different in that the width of the ring is far heavier and the triscelic feature far less ornately decorated than those in the Bordeaux Museum and Met, perhaps indicating a slightly different function.

Figure 6. Accession number 17.192.163 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Figure 6 is a completely different design to the previous figures. However, it is described by the Met exactly as for Figure 4, i.e., to facilitate the hanging of useful household items on a belt – in effect a chatelaine, as for the Bordeaux object.

A chatelaine is a decorative belt hook or clasp worn at the waist (also called a girdle-hanger) with a series of chains suspended from it. Each chain is mounted with a useful household item such as keys, scissors, household-seal, etc.

The name chatelaine derives from the French term *chatelaine,* used to mean the female owner, or wife of the owner, of a large house (the mistress of the château). Chatelaines were worn by many housekeepers in the 19th century and also worn by Anglo-Saxon women, as seen from the burial record. It evolved from being a purely utilitarian object into a decorative symbol that reflected the status of the wearer.

None of the objects from Bordeaux, Croydon and that from the Met at figure 4 would easily fit on to a belt and lack conveniently positioned hanging places for several objects. In contrast, Figure 6 is a good example of an artefact evidently designed for this; it has a good fixing point at the top for a belt and places along the base from which chains could be hung.

It is significant that McKinley (2003, 78) observed that the Croydon cemetery lacked burials with a full feminine ‘kit’, i.e., brooch pair, necklace, a girdle object – such as a set of keys and in many cases another piece of jewellery. McKinley is saying that the classic girdle and its usual accompanying objects, i.e., chatelaine set, were not present at Croydon. (McKinley had taken the

CNHSS logo artefact into account in this – as above, it is in her report, Table 1, page 61.)

From the above it seems unlikely that our Croydon object was a chatelaine.

The broad outer ring of the Croydon objects is similar to Figure 5, setting them and it apart from the thinner-ringed objects in Figures 1 and 4. The BM's suggestion of a strap distributor (picked up by Shaw, 1970, 105 and Croydon Museum) seems the most tenable.

Figure 7. Medieval sword-belt arrangement showing a distributor ring. Image from:- https://www.celticwebmerchant.co.uk/traditional-medieval-swordbelt.html

Figure 8. British Museum, accession no. 1921,1101.281. Viking copper alloy belt divider or fitting with a ring, c. 3.8cm dia. C. 10th.
© The Trustees of the British Museum.
https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/ object/H_1921-1101-281

Figure 8 may have been used to hold three straps together. That in figure 7 is not divided into sections and if it had been would have needed four.

Figure 8, although from the Viking period, is a near exemplar for the functional arrangement of the Croydon examples, providing a central point for three straps. The examples in Bordeaux and the Met may also have worked like this although the very thin gauge of their rings may indicate more of a decorative and lighter function than one to hold heavy, straining straps together; perhaps they were used to hold light weight cloth in position.

Dates for the objects have been mentioned above and they fit well with the range McKinley (2003,3,10 &105) assigned to most of the interments at both the Edridge Road and Park Lane cemeteries, i.e., early to middle Saxon, i.e., c. 5th to 7th century AD.

Regarding cultural affinities, Griffiths (1897, 23) said that the design of the Croydon object is well known in Merovingian cemeteries. Shaw (1970, 96-99) stressed evident Frankish connections within the Croydon Saxon community based on the presence of an angon (a type of javelin) and francisca (throwing axe) from the 1893-4 Edridge Road excavations. The Bordeaux Museum has: "Merovingian, end 5th to beginning 7th century…". The Met describes the objects in Figures 4 and 6 as “Frankish”.

There is thus some consensus that the Croydon emblem-type artefacts are Merovingian/Frankish, or at least had cultural connections and influence from that sphere.

In effect, the terms Merovingian and Frankish are nearly synonymous. The Merovingians were the ruling family of the Franks from the middle of the 5th century to AD 751 when they were replaced by the Carolingians. The term Franks or Frankish still applies after the Merovingian period of kingship because it refers to group of peoples known as Franks who occupied and carried on occupying the area now approximating to France; Merovingians were in effect a ruling house. The term Merovingian is therefore best used in this context if we want to narrow the period of reference to that of their rule, as above, but Frankish equally applies if we are dealing with an underlying culture/cultural influences.

There have been notable connections between England and the Franks. For example, the Frankish princess Bertha married King Ethelbert of Kent around 560 and brought a Frankish bishop with her as chaplain.

Figure 9. The Merovingian kingdoms c. 576 AD.
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merovingian_dynasty

Literary sources indicate the possible presence of Franks among the peoples coming to Britain at the time. Based on grave finds, Vera Evison even argued that Frankish settlers were responsible for the settlement of much of south-eastern England. This assertion is apparently not well supported by other evidence but is, perhaps, intuitively attractive given that the Franks were actually nearer to south east England than the Saxons (Figure 9). The main view is that the Frankish element of the population remained a small, but noticeable, minority (Bakken, 1998).

More recently Hill, Logan and Thompson (McKinley, 2003), made some interesting comments on the cultural affinities of objects from the Saxon Croydon Park Lane cemetery. In their weaponry report they referred to Shaw's observation on Frankish affinities and added that the Edridge Road angon is of Swanton's A2 category, usually associated with Frankish culture although Hill, et al, made the important proviso, that weaponry alone is not a firm enough basis for the establishment of cultural influences.

McKinley added that (2003, 78) grave 135 from Croydon contained a pair of cast S-shaped brooches and that these are rare in England but are found throughout Continental Europe and are particularly common in early Frankish and Lombard graves. No reference was made in the report to the two Croydon triscelic design objects.

Triscelic design objects are common in Merovingian continental cemeteries. However, significantly, artefacts with Merovingian/Frankish affinities are also not uncommon finds in southern England.

The almost ubiquitous nature of Frankish artefacts in southern England was highlighted by O'Brien (1996) who studied excavations of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the south east. She mentions many examples of artefacts with a clear Merovingian/Frankish origin or influence. To quote just a few: at the cemetery at Boss Hall, Ipswich, an Anglo-Saxon female burial was found with a Merovingian coin dated 634 – 656 AD (232). At Asthall, on south side of Akerman Street, Oxfordshire, with the cremated remains of an early 7th century male burial was Merovingian pottery (317). At an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Winterbourne St. Martin, Dorset, a west-east orientated skeleton was accompanied by a seventh-century Frankish scramasax (large, single-edged knife, 331) and Frankish-influenced artefacts were found at an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at the Aerodrome, Bekesbourne, Kent (264).

A summary of this can only be a personal one. I agree with others that the most plausible function of our emblem-artefact was as a strap holder or distributor of some sort. A second possibility may be as a brooch sewn into or onto a garment. The main point against it being a brooch in the ordinary sense is its very plain decoration and lack of back-pin. The Bordeaux and Met examples distinguish themselves here by being relatively ornate. I don't think our Croydon examples were chatelaines.

Because it was found in a Saxon cemetery the initial thought may be that it was therefore made by Saxon craft workers. However, it was very probably, at the very least, inspired by Frankish design and culture and, at the other end of the spectrum, it may have been made by Franks when in Britain or be wholly of Frankish in manufacture and imported by Franks or Saxons.

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British Museum website for image of 1893/4 triscelic object from Edridge Road excavation: https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1895-0313-41 (The image of this is shown in this article on the understanding that it comes under Non-commercial use per the BM website. However, for certainty and avoidance of doubt, the attribution to the BM is given for the 2 BM images displayed in this article as prescribed/given by the BM itself.)

Griffith, F., 1897, On some Roman and Saxon remains, found at Croydon in 1893-94 (Reprinted from Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Vol XV, p 328 by permission of the Council). Surrey Archaeological Collections, vol. 13, 18 – 25

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CNHSS Exhibition 2023 'Croydon from the palette of Evacustes A. Phipson' by John I Hickman

Following considerable critical acclaim for our 2020 proceedings *Evacustes Phipson His Life and Utopian Views and an Introduction to the Croydon Paintings* the society embarked last November on constructing a bid for an exhibition showing 42 Croydon pictures accompanied with information boards in the foyer of Croydon Clocktower thereby contributing to Croydon's London Borough of Culture 2023 event.

John Hickman and Carole Roberts, Exhibition Curators

After initial talks with the managers of Museum of Croydon and Croydon Library it was decided to invite them as partners to enhance our bid to the Croydon Medium Ignite Fund, the local body administering medium size grants for projects such as ours. It would be a CNHSS exhibition in partnership with Croydon Libraries, showcasing around 50 of Phipson's pictures held in the Museum of Croydon's collection. In addition to the exhibition, we proposed to give two different talks on Phipson and his Croydon paintings; to which a third was later added, and two walking tours around central Croydon showing the locations of some of the paintings. A free booklet showing a map of central Croydon surrounded by thirteen Phipson pictures around the periphery with an outline for a personal walk and details of paintings on the back was also to be published.

(left to right)

Andy Stranach, Councillor and Croydon Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture

John Hickman and Carole Roberts, Exhibition curators

Jason Perry, Mayor of Croydon

We were encouraged by being allocated the foyer of Croydon Clocktower for 2nd August to 27th September. These being mid-summer were prime times during the Borough of Culture 2023 event.

Estimates of exhibition installation were negotiated with ADi Solutions who constructed the *Croydon through the lens of Charles Harrison Price* exhibition in 2020. An approach was made to Snappy Snaps of Croydon and again Mike Ratcliffe generously sponsored not only mounting and framing pictures but additionally the manufacture of allied wall-texts and information boards. It has to be said that Mike's advice, optimism, and always 'can-do' approach proved invaluable in the case of this co-curator.

That we had previously held two very successful exhibitions featuring the photographs of Charles Harrison Price – one in the Clocktower foyer in February 2020, the other in the gallery at Stanley Arts in 2022 – contributed in no small part towards swaying the panel in our favour and in February we were duly awarded a substantial grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund which was topped-up by a grant from Croydon's Medium Ignite Fund.

Carole Roberts and I selected the pictures over several discussions as to the merits and qualities of one picture *versus* another. The curating process proved a timely reminder that the pictures were commissioned by John Ollis Pelton, chair of the Libraries Committee through the head librarian, W. C. Berwick Sayers around 1914 to 1928 to record in colour buildings of historical importance and/or were threatened with demolition. The pictures chosen were of central Croydon as far as South End, towards Duppas Hill, West

Croydon Station, Shirley Hotel and Shirley Windmill. The lattermost, although out of the way, was inserted not only to inform but additionally to advertise the site thereby attracting visitors.

Exhibition Visitor

The exhibition purposely shows pictures not only of some buildings that were lost such as ‘Grove House’ and ‘The Vicarage, Waddon Road’, but also of entire communities including, ‘Dalton’s Court’, ‘Ann’s Place’ and ‘Pump Pail’. Other images depict important survivors like ‘South End House’ and the presently barely recognisable ‘Old House, Waddon’.

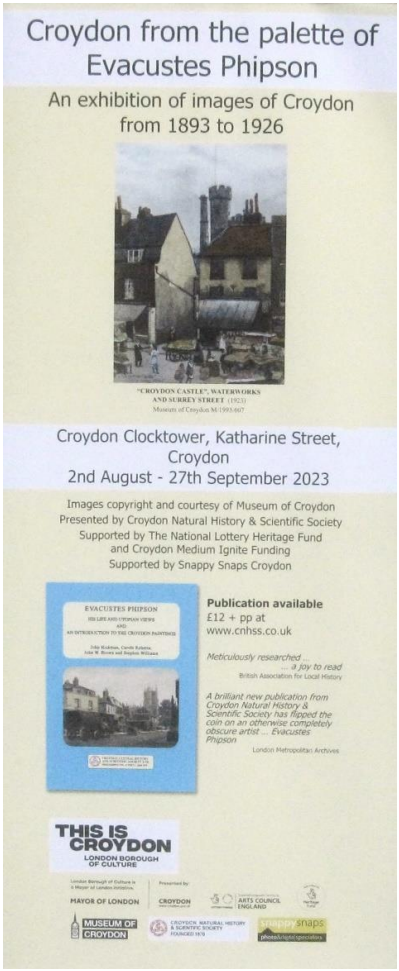
There are notable absences, including a portrayal of ‘Cromwell House’, once chosen but later de-selected because it shows little more than a flowery garden which could be anywhere. Another picture ‘Addiscombe College, Gymnasium from the Bathing-Place’ wasn’t included because it merely gave a glimpse of the back end of a building through trees. Despite its importance ‘Wrencote’ wasn’t put on display because although shown during winter, it is very dark. Indeed, the absence was remarked upon by one visitor and we were asked if such a picture existed. There are occasions when we are unable to answer such an enquiry because we do not know if Phipson painted pictures of a specific site; we can speak only to pictures we have seen in life or in a catalogue.

As with the Price show, Carole produced a scaled PowerPoint design for the hang. This enabled a determination of breadth and balance, and later provided a plan for those installing the exhibition.

A preliminary talk on Phipson and his Croydon pictures was given in Croydon Central Library on 5th July to advertise the forthcoming show. It was attended by thirty or more people who, going by the questions posed, showed considerable interest in the project.

The exhibition was duly installed, surprisingly within a single day, by three ADi Solutions technicians and opened to the public on 2nd August. A reflection of its successful reception is shown by the 60 compliments in the visitors' book that appeared during the first week of the show.

The free, folded A3 booklet giving a map on one side showing the locations of 13 pictures around the periphery, and with a walk and historical details on the back has proved to be very popular. Although written and designed by the curators primarily for incidental recreation, the brochure encourages walking around central Croydon thereby enhancing fitness and the pleasure of exploration.



Sales of our 2020 proceedings on Phipson are pleasing, as are enquiries about the society, and we hope our membership will increase accordingly.

Interestingly I was asked by a visitor which picture is my favourite. While trying to think of an answer, the guest had moved on. While some pictures are perhaps more competent than others, the question is akin to being among the Turner paintings in Tate Britain and being asked which *one* you prefer. During the past five years research has discovered so much about each of the paintings that we now possess an intimate knowledge of each depiction such there is an attraction to all of them. It is an appreciation of the legacy left by an extraordinary artist, Evacustes A. Phipson to Croydon a century ago that we wish to share.

Sue Turnbull — a reflection
by Karen Ip, with additional memories from Brian Lancaster

Sue reading Elis David Almshouses account book 1702

Sue Turnbull: nurse, matron, manager, warden, social worker, therapist, counsellor, amateur aeroplane pilot, public speaker, charity worker, poet, playwright, genealogist – and local historian! Sue's life was impressive, unconventional, inspiring, and full of laughter and love.

Sue was born on 21st August 1938 in Upavon in Wiltshire, where her father was stationed in the Royal Air Force. The family moved to Cambridge when she was young, and she began attending Great St Mary's Church where she was influenced by the teaching and thinking of Mervyn Stockwood, who later became Bishop of Southwark. She loved the history of the building and enjoyed showing people round with talks and tower tours. It was also at Cambridge where Sue enrolled on a nursing course and began a career as a nurse. Due to issues with allergies, which caused her difficulties for her entire life, she was not able to work in hospitals, so she spent periods working as a district and school nurse. She also worked in social care as a therapist

and counsellor, and in prisoner rehabilitation. But her first love was always nursing, so in the later years of her career she moved into working in nursing care for the elderly.

Sue was one of a generation of nurses who suffered from serious back pain as a result of being required to lift people manually as a part of their work. She never complained about her health conditions but always carried on cheerfully.

It was during the later period of her working life that she saw an advertisement for the new Whitgift House nursing home in Croydon, which was at that time being built. Sue applied for the job and grasped the opportunity with great enthusiasm and energy, becoming the first Matron of Whitgift House. While the building was still being completed around her, she worked hard to establish a community of care, ranging from independent living to end of life nursing care, and she achieved great success in doing so.

While at Whitgift House Sue entertained some very important visitors, including Her Majesty the late Queen and former Archbishop Robert Runcie, who she told me loved a game of croquet. She organised many themed parties and dressing up days, and the residents loved it all.

Sue retired early due to health issues in 1997 and went to live at Elis David Almshouses in Duppas Hill, on the suggestion of the then Vicar of Croydon Colin Boswell. It was at Elis David that Sue had the freedom to embrace her interest in local history, and she wasted no time in beginning her research. Nothing much was known about the history of Elis David Almshouses at this point, so there was much to discover. Sue began by researching the life of its founder Elias Davy, a Mercer who lived and worked in the city of London. In 1443 Elias bought a plot of land next to the river Wandle and Croydon Church, and founded his almshouses, establishing Croydon's oldest existing charity (now known as Croydon Almshouse Charities). Sue's research took her to many archives, including the Bodleian Library in Oxford, the London Metropolitan Archives, The Mercers' Company archive, Lambeth Palace Library, Surrey History Centre and the Society of Genealogists. Sue had never received formal training in historical research, but over time she became very skilled and knowledgeable. As her research progressed, she became firm friends with many local historians and archivists, including Lindsay Ould at Croydon Archives, Bill Wood at the Whitgift Foundation and Jane Ruddell at the Mercers Company in the City of London, and they were able to aid her in her research. Sue spent five years unearthing the history of Elias's life and his almshouses, culminating in the publication of her book "The Land Called Delles."

At the same time Sue gave many talks on the almshouses and on the history of Croydon Minster, where she offered regular tours of the building. She also developed and gave talks on the Whitgift Almshouses and on the life of John Whitgift, another subject very dear to her heart. She established a history room at Elis David, spending many hours creating displays and exhibitions there, and purchased any book she could possibly find about the history of Croydon, resulting in a fine collection of modern and old volumes on the subject. These are now held in the Charity's archives and history room at Elis David, which was renamed the Turnbull Room.

I first met Sue in 2013 after her book had been published, and we worked together for six years on several local history projects, including research on Mary Tate and her almshouses in Mitcham, which also belong to Croydon Almshouse Charities. She was a wonderful friend and I cherish the memories of that time.

While living at Elis David Sue wanted to celebrate the heritage and founding of the charity and home she loved, so she arranged for the annual commemoration of Founder's Day and Mynde Day (the anniversary of the founder's death) to be reintroduced. The former was marked by a yearly visit to Mercers Hall in London for a service and for tea, and the latter through re-establishing a Mynde Day Service at Croydon Minster. At the service residents, staff and directors gather around the location of Elias' tomb, exactly as they would have done in medieval times, and the Almshouse Manager says the original medieval words: "God have mercy on our founder's soule and on all Christians". Both events continue to this day.

Prior to retiring, Sue had also been involved professionally in genealogical research, and developed a high level of skill and knowledge in the days before the internet made such research easier and quicker. She frequently offered her time to help friends with researching their family history, alongside her own research into the Turnbull family, originally from the Scottish border country.

Following a period of ill health, Sue moved to Wilhelmina House, where her interest in local history continued. She also enjoyed reading poetry with friends and was always ready to offer a listening ear as a counsellor, when needed, to both residents and staff. Sue died following a brief illness on 10 July 2023.

During her life Sue loved being part of a community. She will be much missed by her community at Wilhelmina House and in the larger community in Croydon.

The "Croydon" Casement – Designed by R. Norman Shaw R.A. by Ron Brooker

The "Croydon" casement was manufactured by Wenham & Waters Ltd., at the Paragon Works, Vicarage Road, Croydon from 1886 to 1911. In 1886, the Complete Specification – Improvements in and Connected with Casements, records the Patent No. 4285[1] dated 26 March 1886 in the names of Richard Norman Shaw of 29 Bloomsbury Square in the County of Middlesex, Royal Academician and William Philipps Wenham of Wenham and Waters Limited of Paragon Works, Croydon, Surrey, Manufacturers.

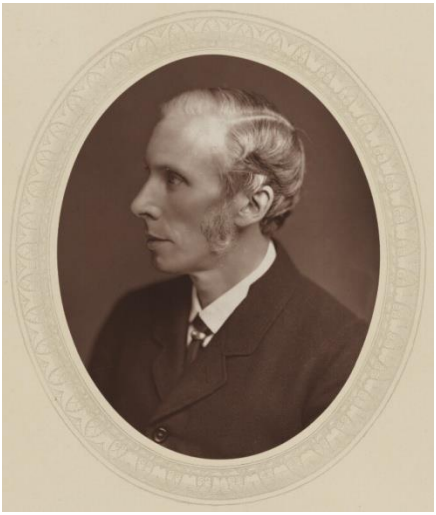


Fig. No. 1 Portrait of Richard Norman Shaw R.A. in 1883 (© National Portrait Gallery)[2]

Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912) (known as Norman Shaw) was an eminent British architect who was elected as a full member of the Royal Academy in 1877. It is probable that Shaw's original connection with Wenham & Waters was through W.P. Wenham[3] and his carrying out of plumbing works. The firm of Wenham & Waters was referred to in Andrew Saint's book on Richard Norman Shaw as "his regular plumbers".[4] As well as making the Croydon casement they also manufactured sanitary goods and a radiator to Shaw's design.[5]

572 SASHES, CASEMENTS AND FRAMES.

WENHAM & WATERS, LIMD.,

PARAGON WORKS, VICARAGE ROAD, CROYDON.

THE CROYDON CASEMENTS.

(PATENT No. 4285.)

For details see page 573.

PRICE LIST.

No. 1, of 1 in by ½ in. Welded Wrought Iron, and fitted with ½ in.
Stops, Iron Cockspur Fastening and Stay Hook No. 2, with Square Head.

Fig. No. 2 from Architects', Surveyors' and Engineers' Compendium. 1902 p572

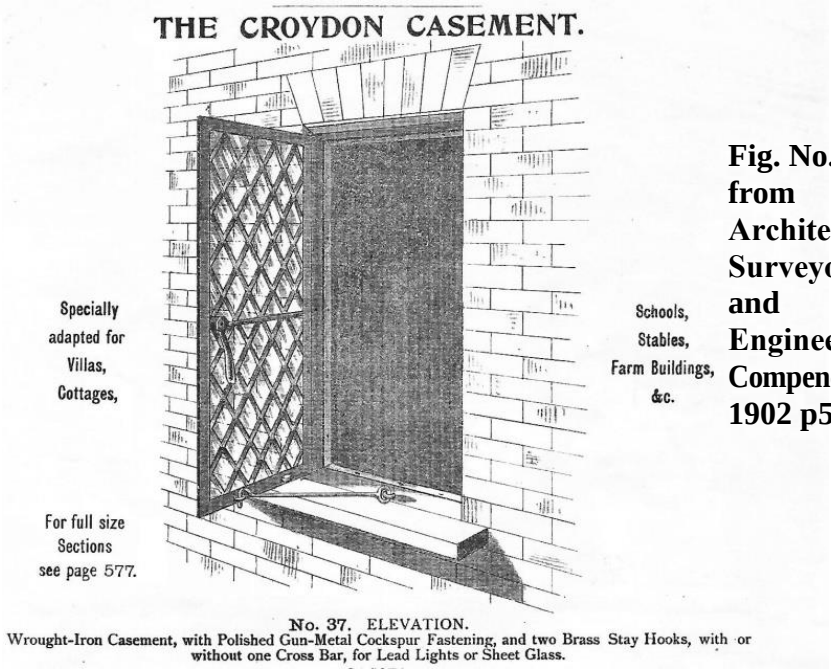


Fig. No. 3 from Architects', Surveyors' and Engineers' Compendium 1902 p575

The British Architect in its 17 December 1886 edition under Trade Notes gives a description of the "Croydon" casement, and mentions two houses, firstly "Walhampton" at Lymington, Hampshire for J.P. Heseltine Esq., where the casements, heating and cooking apparatus, gas fittings and bells, and the locks and door furniture were supplied and fixed by the firm, who also executed the lead glazing and sanitary work.[6] The second house referred to was "Castle Malwood Lodge" at Minstead, Hampshire by the architect Ewan Christian for Sir William Harcourt, where the firm supplied and fixed a portion of the casements, principally those for lead-lights.[7] It mentions that the casements referred to, known as the "Croydon" casement, were specifically worthy of note, since they had been designed by Mr. Norman Shaw, R.A., to obviate many of the inconveniences generally experienced with the ordinary form of casement. It was further noted that the casements had been fitted in residences and other buildings, including "Cragside" Northumberland, for Sir William Armstrong; "Adcote" Shropshire, for Mrs. Darby; and Miss Kate Greenaway's house in Frogmore Road, Hampstead, together with St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth.

The introduction in Wenham & Waters 1903 illustrated catalogue of Casements, Ventilators, Sashes, Lantern Lights, Skylights, Lever Opening Gearing, Zinc Bar Glazing, and Lead Light Glazing begged respectfully to call the attention of Architects to their Patent "Croydon" Casement. It is possible that this introduction was included in previous illustrated catalogues issued by the firm. The 1903 catalogue stated that "This "Croydon" Casement was designed by R. Norman Shaw, Esq., R.A., Architect, has been found to obviate many of the inconveniences generally experienced with casements." It went on to state "The almost universal modern plan is to make the casement and frame together, and to set the frame in rebates left in the stone or wooden mullions. To prevent the rain from driving in, recourse is had to sections of metal, both of frame and casement, more or less complicated, the success of the whole depending on an accurate fit. In MR. SHAW'S plan the casement generally consists of a flat bar of metal, 1¼ in. by ⅜ in., and the frame is formed by adjusting and screwing to the stone or woodwork four slips (one on each side, and one at top and bottom), each about 1 in. by ⅛ in., projecting beyond the face of the rebates, and thus forming a perfect throating all round. It will thus be seen that when the casement is hung on its hinges, the adjustment of the four slips becomes the simplest matter possible, and a perfect fit ensues at once, and one which can never be deranged. In the ordinary plan the slightest settlement causes the casement to "bite" in its frame, but by this arrangement all "biting" is entirely avoided. It is found very convenient to have a small cabin hook about the middle of the height of the casement, so as to keep it open about three

or four inches. Any ordinary stay bar may be applied to the lower portion, but these are generally fitted with a couple of eyes in the lower bar and a simple hook, lying (when not in use) on the outside sill. For these Casements we claim the advantage of all parts being welded together instead of the usual brazed joint, and we guarantee to make them perfectly wind and water-tight in the most exposed positions, while the price list will compare favourably with those of other makers".

Extras were available, such as the casement having a shaped head, additional saddle bars for lead lights, additional rebated and chamfered cross bars for sheet glass, casement prepared with condensation channel, with groove for glazing instead of rebate, and fitted with ornamental cockspurs and latches. The introduction also mentions Reversible Casements, opening outwards – they allowed cleaning from the inside, and allowed a fixed light on each side to be cleaned. (see illustrations Figs. No. 5 & 6)

Improvements in casements and fittings throughout the period were ongoing, and lead to the Improved "Croydon" Casement, the patent number was 7766/03, the application date being 3 April 1903 and was in the name of Wenham & Waters.[8]

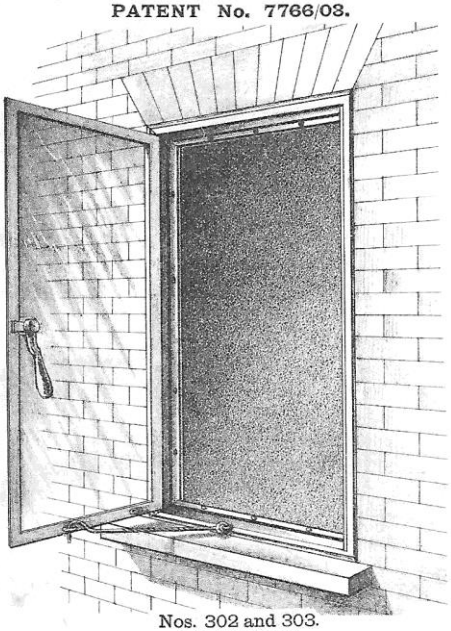
See next page: Fig. No. 4

They specially invited the attention of Architects to the great improvements that they had recently patented in connection with their welded Wrought Iron Flat Bar Casement, also in certain of the sectional casements with brazed joints, by the application of a casing of gun-metal[9], or other non-corroding metal, to the outer surfaces. For positions on the coast, or in the neighbourhood of the sea, it was most desirable to use Gun-Metal Casements, but frequently that was impossible on account of the expense. Their invention removed that objection, and they believed it would be found that their Price Lists of that combination of Iron and Gun-metal Casements would compare favourably with the price lists of other makers for best quality iron casements. In that combination there was the advantage of a Gun-metal Casement at a small increase in cost above iron, while the strength of the iron casement was increased. The Improved Patent Croydon Casements, with Gun-metal Casings to the Outer Surfaces required no outside painting or putty bedding to renew. In order to meet the great demand for Casements of a cheaper class, but of sufficiently good quality for ordinary purposes, they also made Sectional Iron Casements of every description with brazed joints.

WENHAM & WATERS LTD

PATENT No. 7766/03.

The Croydon Casement.



With Gun-Metal Casings on the Outside.

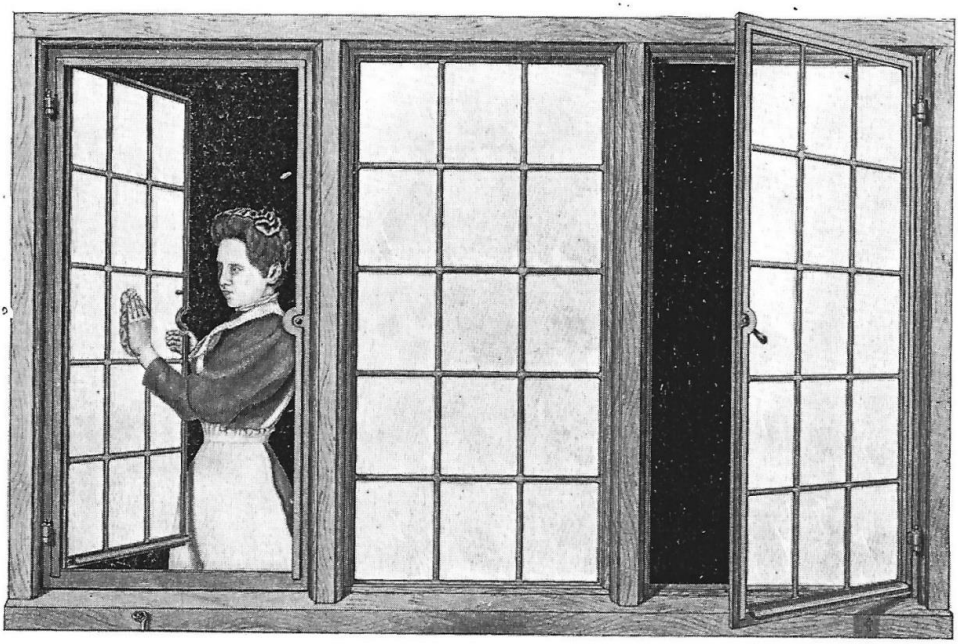
Nos. 302 and 303.
ELEVATION.

No. 302.—Patent Croydon Casement, opening outwards, of Wrought-iron Welded Joints, the outside face cased with Gun-metal, as shown in detail, page 40, section A, or No. 303, with the outside face *and edges* cased with Gun-metal, as shown in Section C, prepared for glazing with Sheet Glass, or with one Saddle Bar for Lead Lights.
Fitted with polished Gun-metal Cockspur Fastening and Stay Hooks.

Fig. No. 4 from Wenham & Waters Ltd., Illustrated Catalogue of Casements, Ventilators, Sashes, Lantern Lights, Skylights, Lever Opening Gearing, Zinc Bar Glazing, And Lead Light Glazing. May 1903. p41

Wenham's Patent Reversible Casement.

CROYDON TYPE. No. 700.



OPEN INWARDS. OPEN OUTWARDS.

1¼-in. by ⅜-in. Welded Wrought Iron and fitted with ⅛-in. Stops, Ground-face Polished Gun Metal Cockspur Fastening, and Stay Hook.

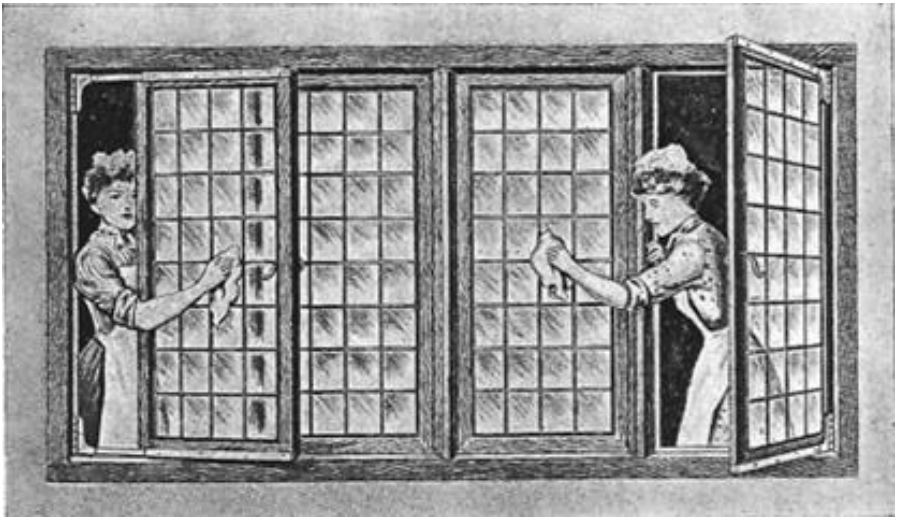
Fig. No.5 from Wenham & Waters Ltd., Supplementary Illustrated Catalogue of Metal Casements and Fowler's Patent Hinges for Wood Casements. April 1909. p12

In Victorian and Edwardian times although there were a number of metal casement manufactures, however, under the patronage of numerous architects Wenham & Waters casements had been extensively used in some of the finest mansions, residences and public buildings.

WENHAM & WATERS, Ltd.,

Sanitary, Heating, and Electrical Engineers, Iron and Brass Founders, &c.

Sole Manufacturers of Fowler's Patent (Applied for No. 11,454/08) Telescopic Hinges for Metal and Wood Casements.



The simplest and most effective method of hanging Casements, allowing the cleaning and painting of the outside of Casements and adjoining fixed lights (if any) to be done from inside the room.

No special preparations of Casements and Frames required, the Hinges can be applied to existing Casements without alteration of joinery work.

Elevation of a Four-Light Window, consisting of Two Casements Fitted with the Patent Hinges, and two fixed lights showing the method of cleaning.

Fig. No.6 from Wenham & Waters Ltd., Supplementary Illustrated Catalogue of Metal Casements and Fowler's Patent Hinges for Wood Casements. April 1909. p2

In 1911 the firm of Wenham & Waters Ltd., went into voluntary liquidation, and in the September 1912 Catalogue of the Birmingham and London firm of Henry Hope & Sons they state "We have recently purchased the Goodwill, Patterns, Trade Marks, Designs & Patents of Wenham & Waters Limited,

and are in a position to supply casements, casement fittings, and leaded glass to any of their designs".[10]

Casement manufacturing was to continue when a new partnership was established in 1911 as Wenham & Fowler, Sanitary & Electrical Engineers, at 70A North End, Croydon and subsequently at the Southbridge Works, 115/117 Southbridge Road, Croydon by W.P. Wenham's son, James Wenham the former manager of the Paragon Works, and William Henry Fowler, the former manager of the casement manufacturing department. Casement manufacture at the firm, however, ceased in 1964.

Notes:

1 Copy of Patent No. 4285 obtained from Science Museum Library when records were housed in London.

2 National Portrait Gallery, London under licence,
by Lock & Whitfield, published by Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington woodbury type, published 1883 NPG Ax17695.

3 William Philipps Wenham was elected a member of the Croydon Microscopical and Natural History Club on 17 October 1877 – Proceedings 1894 – 95, List of Members, revised to June, 1895. p.lxxxiv. The Croydon Microscopical Club (1870 – 1877), the Croydon Microscopical and Natural History Club (1877 – 1901), the unincorporated Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society (1902 – 1967), and the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society Ltd., (1967 to date).

4 Andrew Saint, *Richard Norman Shaw* (Yale University Press, 1983) p184.

5 Firm also manufactured a channel drain pipe to R. Norman Shaw's and T.L. Watson's patent, from advert in *The Builder,* p.xxiv June 28 1890 Vol.58. Radiators installed at "Cragside" Northumberland to Shaw's design, possibly Patent No. 14743/91.

6 John Postle Heseltine (1843-1929), Stockbroker, Art collector and Trustee of National Gallery acquired "Walhampton" in 1883 as his county house.

7 "Castle Malwood Lodge" built 1884 for Sir William Harcourt (1827-1904) Liberal politician and Cabinet Minister.

8 A copy of Patent No. 7766/03apparently is no longer available. A check carried out by a member of the staff at the British Library was unable to locate a copy, also not available on Espacenet website.

9 Gun-metal, an alloy of copper, tin and zinc.

10 Henry Hope & Sons – Hope's Casements Windows & Leaded Glass, p.2 of Catalogue dated September, 1912.

The Croydon Open Spaces Exhibition at Old Palace 29th October 2022 by Carole Roberts

On 29th October 2022 we held our closing event of the CNHSS 150th Anniversary celebrations at the Old Palace Croydon. This was a Focus event with a theme of open spaces. The display that follows, early public open spaces in Croydon, was held at the event.

It was in 1865 that the Croydon Local Board of Health acquired Duppas Hill, our first public open space in Croydon. Not everyone approved of this use of ratepayers' money to purchase land that had been common land until the Enclosures of 60 years earlier, and which had continued in use as a recreation ground. But the debate on acquiring public land was opened, and the later 1860s brought a wake-up call for Croydon when it was clear that much building as a result of significant population increase was using up our land fast.

As we entered the 1870s a start was made on other acquisitions: Woodside Green and Thornton Heath Recreation Ground, and the first part of Addington or Shirley Hills. Then came 1883 when Croydon become a proud Borough, and in 1888 Croydon Corporation pledged £25,000 for five new Recreation Grounds across the five new wards: at South Norwood, South Croydon, Wandle Park, Upper Norwood and Whitehorse Road.

1901 brought us Croham Hurst, after a long campaign with our members at the heart of it, reserving Croham Hurst as a public space. After a hiatus during the First World War the 1920s brought the breakup of some of our great houses and amongst the Corporation's acquisitions that decade were Ashburton Park and Norwood Grove. In 1930 Lloyd Park was donated by the daughter of Frank Lloyd.

The 1930s once again brought intense building and an awareness that open space was disappearing fast. In response the County Borough of Croydon swung into action to acquire any patch of land that it could. In 1935 there was finally success in the campaign for the Preservation of Selsdon Wood, our members once again being greatly involved.

In 1938 William Berwick Sayers's book 'The parks and pleasure grounds of Croydon' recorded 51 open spaces. WW2 saw our parks contribute to the national food growing effort.

Amongst post WW2 acquisitions, in 1965 the open spaces of Purley, Kenley, Selsdon, Sanderstead and Coulsdon were brought into the Borough when much of the former Coulsdon and Purley Urban District joined with Croydon

to become the new London Borough of Croydon.

In the 21st century leftover land from Tramlink brought us the Addiscombe Railway Park, and most recently in 2019 we gained a new National Nature Reserve, the South London Downs NNR.

Meanwhile with much help from the wonderful work by Friends and other groups in Croydon, many of our parks and open spaces are used in their old and some new ways, with many opportunities for volunteering, in recent times sometimes as outdoor gyms, and our own society often holds ecology, ornithology and other walks in our open spaces.

The display follows showing John Gent Collection images of Croydon's open spaces acquired up to 1939.

All images © John Gent Collection

Early public open spaces in Croydon

1865 Duppas Hill Recreation Ground was bought for £2,000
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ot-017

1871 Woodside Green was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ws-021

1874 the first part of Addington/ Shirley Hills was acquired for £1,500
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sy-190

1884 Thornton Heath Recreation Ground was opened
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-th-387

1888 Park Hill Recreation Ground opened
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-cc-483

1888 – Croydon Corporation pledges £25,000 for new parks across Croydon's five new wards

South Norwood Recreation Ground opened in 1889
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sn-158

South Croydon Recreation Ground opened in 1889
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sc-131

Wandle Park in Waddon opened in 1890
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ot-140

Upper Norwood Recreation Ground opened in 1890
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-un-372

Whitehorse Road Recreation Ground opened in 1891
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-av-015

Croydon's pre-WW1 open spaces

Town Hall Gardens (Queens Gardens), opened 1895 in a former railway cutting
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-cc-355

1900 Grangewood Park opened
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-th-529

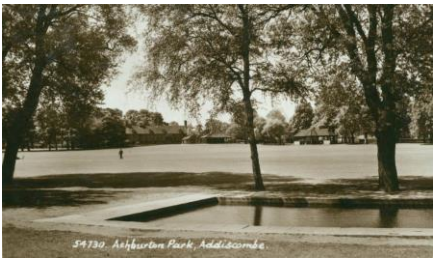
In 1901 Croham Hurst was saved from development or enclosure
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sc-362

Addiscombe Recreation Ground opened in 1905
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-as-123

Pollards Hill opened in 1913
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ny-248

Croydon's open spaces acquired in the 1920s

1924 Long Lane Woods was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ct-020



1924 Ashburton Park opened
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-as-122

1926 Norwood Grove was opened by the Prince of Wales, later Edward VIII
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-un-366

1926 Spring Park Wood was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sy-410

1928 Shirley Church Recreation Ground was opened
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sy-412

1928 Waddon Ponds was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ot-033

1930s – expansion for Croydon's open spaces

1930 Addington Park
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ad-005

1930 Coombe Cliff Garden
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-cc-517

1931 Purley Way Playing Fields was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-py-780

1931 South Norwood Lake and Grounds was opened
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sn-218

1932 Littleheath Wood was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-st-202

More open spaces acquired by Croydon in the 1930s

1935 North Surrey Golf Course (Norbury Park) was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ny-096

1935 Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve was acquired, after a long campaign
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-sd-100

1935 Purley Way Swimming Pool opened
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-ms-128

1938 Beaulieu Park (Beaulieu Heights) was acquired
© John Gent Collection jg-pc-un-221

Other land acquired in the 1930s:

1930 Lloyd Park
1931 Mayfield Road Playground, Thornton Heath
1931 Canterbury Road Recreation Ground
1931 Boulogne Road Playground, Thornton Heath
1931 Norbury Children's Playground
1933 Little Playground Addiscombe
1933 Haling Grove
1934 Mary Heighton Memorial
1934 Worcester Close Shirley (Miller's Pond)
1934 Shirley Church Road (Foxes Wood)
1934 Shirley Heath
1934 Temple Avenue Recreation Ground
1935 Parkfields Shirley
1935 Northway Road Children's Playground
1935 Heavers Meadow Selhurst
1936 Addington Vale
1936 Boundary Woods New Addington
1936 Falconwood Meadow Addington
1936 Rowdown Field New Addington
1937 King George's Field Selhurst
1938 Kingswood Avenue Viewpoint
1938 North Down Addington Village
1939 Biggin Woods Upper Norwood
1939 The Lawns Upper Norwood

Paul Sowan's Memorial at Reigate Castle by Tony Skrzypczyk

On Saturday 8th July, Adam Sowan (Paul's brother) and his partner Barbara invited friends to witness the scattering of some of Paul's ashes in the grounds of Reigate Castle, where there is a stone marking the centre of Baron's cave below. Paul was a cave guide here on Open Days. Present were: Tony Skrzypczyk, his wife Sharon, Brenda Hawkins, Pam Buttrey and David Reidy on behalf of CNHSS. Also a small number of members of Subterranea Britannica and two Wealden Cave and Mine Society members who offered tours of Baron's cave.

Regrettably, it was a very wet and windy day which was not conducive to taking photos.

Paul Rainey 1946-2023
by Paul himself with other contributions edited by Carole Roberts

In January we were very sad to hear that Paul Rainey, our former Director [from 2002 to 2020] and Treasurer [from 2003 to 2018], had passed away.

Paul was born as Tasman Paul Rainey in South Africa in 1946. A professional hydro geologist, in 1989 his joint paper with Michael Rosenbaum 'The adverse influence of geology and groundwater on the behaviour of London Underground railway tunnels near Old Street Station' was printed in the Geological Association Proceedings Volume 100 Part 1.

Paul joined CNHSS in 1978. During his first few years of membership he was largely working abroad but by 1987 he was contributing talks to the society and participating in field trips. By 1996 he was joint Secretary of the Geology Section, and in 2002 he became a much-valued member of CNHSS Council. In 2003 he became the Treasurer, a post he held until 2018. Across his years with CNHSS his walks included: *On the stones of Croydon; From the Thames Barrier to the fossil pits at Abbey Wood; From Coombe Conduit across Richmond Park to the river*; and *The history of water in Richmond*. His talks included '*South London Spas*', following a related walk in the Epsom area, and 'Weighing the Earth'. He was an authority on geological and hydro-geological matters and we know that Paul Sowan used to greatly appreciate Paul's knowledge and their discussions. In 2020 Paul Rainey left CNHSS Council but we were glad that he was able to attend the opening event of our delayed 150th Anniversary celebrations at the Old Palace Croydon in April 2022.

Paul in April 2022 at CNHSS's opening 150th Anniversary event at the Old Palace Croydon

Other societies with which Paul was involved included the Geologists' Association from 1962; the London Geodiversity Partnership, from its beginning; the Ravensbourne Geological Society to its close in 2014; and Bromley Friends of the Earth.

Paul's memorial meeting took place in March at the Bromley Quaker Meeting House and was attended by members of CNHSS. In keeping with Quaker tradition this was a silent occasion punctuated by personal recollections, led by Paul's brother Rod. It was good to hear not only from Paul's family but from the various societies with which Paul had been involved.

We are pleased to reproduce here Paul's personal history dated 2018, kindly passed on by his brother Rod Rainey. Extracts of this appeared in our Spring 2023 Bulletin.

PERSONAL HISTORY WRITTEN BY PAUL

I was born in South Africa.

The first place I can remember is Nairobi in Kenya. By this time I had a younger sister who had been born in England and a baby brother recently born in Nairobi.

My father was a scientist concerned with forecasting the weather and hence the movement of swarms of locusts. The desert locust moves around with the monsoon rains anywhere from East Africa, through the Middle East to India. It makes good sense for all the countries in that area to co-operate in tracking and keeping the swarms small and so preventing the major biblical swarms emerging out of the unknown and then impossible to control.

Throughout my childhood I was familiar with airports either seeing off my father or welcoming him from many tropical countries. Similarly every Christmas, cards were sent off to and arrived from many not necessarily Christian countries.

At age eight, after my sister had died from, and I was recovering from, polio, the family travelled back to England on the slow boat, for six weeks calling at all the ports round southern Africa and the Cape of Good Hope as well as the islands of Ascension and Saint Helena. This was clearly exciting for a young boy.

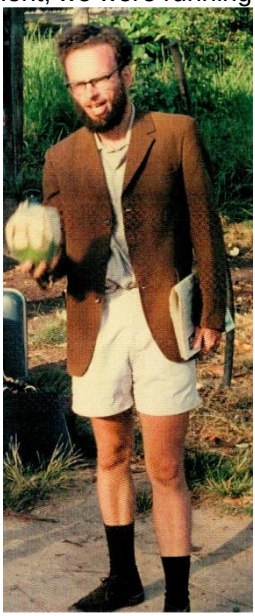
We then lived in Pinner in Middlesex. I remember wondering how the Lord's Prayer and a hymn could possibly make a primary school assembly dangerously threatening to a couple of children. The church never took any part in our family life.

1959 saw the celebrations of the centenary of the publication of Charles Darwin's "Origin of Species". My background text would be the famous last paragraph of that book which includes these sentences:

“It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent on each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us ….. Thus, from the war of nature, from famine and death, the most exalted object which we are capable of conceiving, namely, the production of the higher animals, directly follows. There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved.”

The subject of the progress of Independence of the African Colonies was always of interest to me. This was perhaps inevitable with a father frequently visiting such places, a bilingual Afrikaans/English Birth Certificate, distant memories of the Mau-Mau in Kenya, and the Sharpeville Massacre on my 14th birthday.

On a lighter note a close friend spent half a term working out the best route for travelling through all the London Underground Stations in the shortest possible time. On the chosen Saturday we started at the end of the Central Line on the first train of the day at Ongar – after a friendly policeman finding us in a bus-shelter invited us in for a drink and a statement, we were running towards a beautiful sunrise between New Cross Gate and New Cross, eating a breakfast sandwich while travelling through Marble Arch. We had problems with a bus-strike for certain key garages in North London but eventually got back home to Pinner, extremely tired, after only 17 hours 47 minutes – valid for the Guinness Book of Records but only if qualified for a Saturday using only public transport.



I studied for my Geology Degree at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, as far from home as I could get. At that time Newcastle was one of the centres most closely involved with the development of Plate Tectonics. Another significant event in those days was the Aberfan Disaster. This terrible disaster could and should have been avoided if due attention had been paid to the geology.

Paul drinking from a fresh coconut whilst working in Kenya in 1970. Photo by and courtesy of Rod Rainey

My first job on qualifying was – as part of the British Overseas Aid Effort – working, as I like to put it, as one of Jomo Kenyatta's civil servants. I was introduced once to a visiting dignitary by one of Kenyatta's ministers as "one of his colonial fossils" and was involved in exploring for lead and zinc and cement raw materials.

Having been waving a Union Jack as Princess Elizabeth opened a new Nairobi by-pass it was pleasing also to watch her, now as the Queen, travelling along that same road sharing a limousine as a guest of President Kenyatta.

An unforgettable experience was watching a Total Solar Eclipse from the shores of Lake Rudolf in Northern Kenya.

In 1974 I left Kenya for good for the second time in my life but actually within a few months was returning, but this time working for Balfour Beatty. We were involved in the investigation for the design and construction of a hydro-electric project on the Tana River. This included an earth-fill dam, an underground power station and 7km of shafts and tunnels in hard rock.

In 1978 I returned to England just long enough to find and move into the Bromley flat in which I still live. Soon it was back to Kenya for a further year or so to investigate another power station site. On this project I was living in a temporary building made of aluminium sheets. The only ground level entrance was under a wide front door. One night a column of safari ants marched through that gap and under my bed before reaching the far wall. There, being forced to turn back they spread out over all available surfaces. Some found their way under my mosquito net into my bed. It was then that I became aware of widespread small very sharp bites. I fought my way out of the mosquito net and on reaching my torch found myself standing on a floor covered by ants, many with sharp claws. The door was the only option but fortunately we had a spare hut waiting for more surveyors expected the next day. The next day the ants had moved on leaving some of our buildings very thoroughly cleansed. When we found the ant nest I was not too reluctant to authorize the use of fuel and fire as murder tools.

1981 saw me crossing the Andes for the first time. This was to work on a hydro-electric project close to Santiago in Chile in a valley once followed up by Darwin. I was lucky enough then to spend a few weeks as a tourist trying to follow as close as possible the route followed by Charles Darwin during his Voyage on the Beagle.

1982 found me in Peru on another major project. From there in rather dramatic circumstances I was flown back with leukaemia. One part of that adventure which I will never forget was being asked by a chaplain of some kind in a Peruvian hospital whether he could pray with me. I still try to

remember how I might have responded, wonder about my response.

Once back in England it was time for nine months of perhaps five rounds of quite drastic chemotherapy at Hammersmith Hospital. Then it was soon back at work, returning to Peru and, very fortunately having to visit 17 potential small hydro-electric stations, widespread over the whole country.

Then what turned out to be my last few months in Kenya.

In 1986 I was on a small survey ship looking at details of the geology to refine the designs for the Channel Tunnel. But it was on that ship that I suffered my first epileptic seizure. A lifeboat took me ashore and to Calais Hospital. My brother then brought me home. It took a couple of years before I was back on geological sites, now in London and Indonesia.

The 90's, for me, were highly tumultuous.

A low point was having to attend a funeral in Shrewsbury. Two young children were mourning the loss of their mother from cancer. I will never forget how, when asking directions in a newsagent, I got the reply "Are you going to Mary's funeral?".

But I believe it was probably that event which prompted my first visit to a Quaker Meeting, this one, on 6 September 1992. During the course of that meeting I could see that one person, at least, was very clearly helped by the worship. There seemed to be a good chance that I might also be helped. I have been coming regularly ever since.

About eighteen months later I attended London Yearly Meeting as a guest. My most abiding memory of that meeting is the sudden stilling of hundreds of people at each session. Jocelyn Bell Burnell, the clerk, using careful listening and sensitive judgment made initial discord gradually evolve into harmony. One and the same text in the draft "Faith and Practice" could be noted for its great clarity by one speaker, mean something quite different to another and be almost impenetrable to a third. A passage seen as threatening to some could seem neutral or even of great charm to others.

When will “listening” appear in the national curriculum?

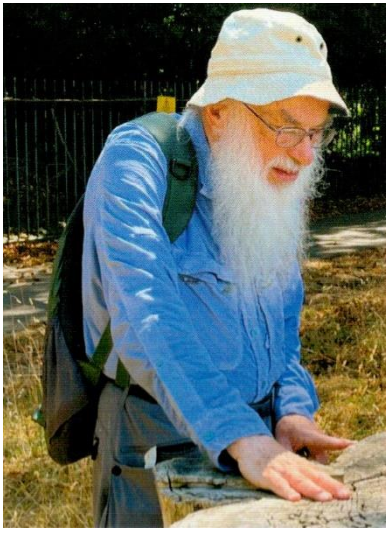
Another event was a meeting at Blackheath Meeting House when a former army officer, now closely involved in attempts at reconciliation, explained how the most difficult questions to deal with were those subjects which everyone knew to be true but, in fact, never happened.

On another occasion a Quaker working in Palestine explained “You can tell immediately on which side a person belongs to, by the point at which his story starts”.

These are both aspects of the Quaker truth so beautifully summarized in the words “Think it possible that you may be mistaken”.

At about this time a very enthusiastic fossil and mineral collector, Austin Lockwood, with a spectacular collection retired and inspired a group of people, including myself, to found and run the Ravensbourne Geological Society. At an early stage he identified blocks of 2000 million year old gneiss in NW Scotland. Twenty of these blocks were carried down to Bromley and installed in prominent green spaces throughout the borough to mark the millennium. In addition handful sized blocks were given to every school child in the borough. These large blocks appear to have survived well, little affected by vandalism. This society ran field trips, a lecture programme and at its peak two Saturday morning children’s events every month.

Outside that society I have become closely involved in geological conservation issues throughout London. My particular interest has been, and still is, in the bournes and spas of such valleys as the Ravensbourne and Wandle. At one time St Blaise's Well in the grounds of Bromley's Bishops Palace was marketed as a stronger rival to Tunbridge Wells with much easier access to London. Epsom Salts were produced on Shooters Hill while Ladywell, in Lewisham was a source of good drinking water.



From 2004 for about 7 years, on the first Saturday of every month, a group of Forest Hill Friends established a peace Vigil in Trafalgar Square. Several times I found myself holding a banner to enable another Friend to do more of the talking to the curious.

The annual Conscientious Objectors Day memorial event in Tavistock Square has become a regular point in my diary.

Curiously at one stage I was also the treasurer of up to eight different small, some very small, charitable groups.

Paul at Gunnersbury Park in 2022. Photo copyright and courtesy of Ruth Siddall

With thanks for checking by and for contributions from Rod Rainey, Simon Rainey, and Laurie Baker and Diana Clements of the London Geodiversity Partnership.

Anti-Catholicism in early nineteenth century Croydon by Brian Lancaster

'It is a remarkable fact', reported the *Sussex Agricultural Express* on 2 January 1836, 'that in Croydon, a town containing above 9000 inhabitants and within fourteen miles of the metropolis, not even one papist can be found.' The report then turns to blatant anti-Catholicism. 'We most devotedly wish that every town, village, district and city in the United Empire could make the same boast.'

From this report one would hardly guess that Catholics could vote, hold public office and, since 1829, sit in Parliament. The report underlines the divergence between government policies and popular anti-Catholicism, a divergence which showed no sign of narrowing for many years.

The earliest reference to anti-Catholicism in Croydon that I have found is a very brief news item in the *Morning Chronicle* on Tuesday 10 June 1828, referring to a petition against granting any further concessions to Catholics. It alludes to the Catholic Relief Acts, the first of which was passed in 1778. Others followed: in 1791, 1793 and 1829. That in 1793 permitted Catholics in Ireland to vote. Few Catholics possessed the high property qualifications needed before they could. That of 1829 is called the Catholic Emancipation Act. It gave Catholics the right to become members of Parliament.

Not all Catholic Relief Bills passed into law. One in May 1825 did not. On that occasion the Archbishop of Canterbury presented a petition against the Bill from Croydon and other places to the House of Lords.[1]

That in 1829 was the most contentious as the right to sit in Parliament threatened the Protestant constitution of the United Kingdom. George IV was opposed to Catholic Emancipation as it touched upon the Oath of Supremacy by which every Member of Parliament and office holder had to swear allegiance to the Crown and renounce all foreign jurisdictions powers and authorities. Catholics were believed to owe an inadmissible double allegiance – to the Crown and to the Papacy.

Both the King's Tory Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington and his Home Secretary, Robert Peel, though they had initially opposed Catholic Emancipation, were ready to have the issue debated in Parliament. They could see no alternative. What brought matters to a head was the fear that, because of Daniel O'Connell's successful Nationalist campaigns in Ireland, the breakdown of law and order might not be avoided. Catholic Emancipation became law in April 1829.

The point to note is that anti-Catholicism had a political as well as a religious dimension. It was believed that Catholicism 'encouraged despotism and was incompatible with free political institutions'.[2] After 1829 the religious dimension was more obvious.

'No Popery' was a cry at the heart of anti-Catholicism. One clergyman wrote 'Let us then hold up the inhuman system to merited execration…let parents teach their children, to dread and to oppose this abomination of desolation'.[3] Catholic beliefs – transubstantiation, veneration of the Virgin Mary, invocation of the saints – were held to be idolatrous and superstitious.

Until 1855 Croydon did not have its own newspaper. Had it one, such news about anti-Catholicism would most probably not have been omitted. One omission was the Maynooth grant.

In 1845 the Tory government proposed to increase the grant to the Roman Catholic seminary at Maynooth in Co. Kildare. Catholic parish priests had widely supported O'Connell's campaigns. Increasing the grant was a conciliatory gesture to improve the standard of education of Catholic priests. Robert Peel, the Home Secretary, had no illusions that the increase would diminish that support.

The omission of news about the Maynooth grant can be remedied by London newspapers, for the *Morning Herald* reported on Wednesday April 9 that a Mr W. Denison had the previous day presented petitions from Croydon and other places to the House of Commons against the grant to Maynooth. His was one of several such that day.

Had there been local newspapers in Croydon we might have found out the number who had signed and even some of their names and how the signatures had been collected. They may have been collected at a bookshop, grocer's or Town Hall. I think we may assume there was a public meeting to adopt a petition. We might have found out the wording of the petition. The objection to the grant may have been against the increase or even against giving any grant to Maynooth. The increase was from £9,250 in 1808 to £26,360. In total, there had been 8,922 petitions against the grant. Petitions by themselves rarely resulted in debates. The purpose of petitions was to exert 'psychological pressure on governments'.[4]

The increase in the grant became law in June.

The accuracy of the above report in the *Sussex Agricultural Express* is questionable, for it was in 1837 that a Catholic priest came to Croydon and rented a small house, known then as Southbridge Cottage and later as 20 Southbridge Road.[5] The priest was the Revd Patrick O'Moore. He was in fact

a Spaniard. He was born about 1760 and, years later, was a chaplain in a Spanish regiment during the Peninsular War. By 1837 he had retired.

Southbridge Cottage was owned by William Trask. It was soon used for Catholic worship. The first recorded baptism took place in April 1838, the first of three that year. More baptisms followed in subsequent years until 1841 when the chapel closed. Its location was unfortunate as the very Protestant Pump Pail Baptist Chapel opened that year almost opposite the Cottage.

It may be assumed that Masses were celebrated as well. It may also be assumed that the Cottage did not identify itself as a Catholic chapel and that Father O'Moore did not wear a cassock in the open air or if he did that it was covered by a black coat. To have worn a cassock in public would have courted abuse, verbal and physical.

In April 1841 Father O'Moore was able to celebrate Mass in a new chapel, St Mary's, whose foundation stone had been laid that year in Broad Green.

A year later, on Whit Sunday, Father O'Moore was attacked by a party of ruffians while he was celebrating Mass. They dragged away the unfortunate man, tore his vestment in pieces, brutally assaulted him on the head, face, and chest, so that blood flowed copiously from his wounds; two of the ruffians pinioned his arms while a third maltreated him in a brutal manner for more than an hour till he was rescued by the police.

The report in the *Sussex Agricultural Express* is exceedingly brief in comparison. According to its report it was a woman who interrupted the service. The unnamed woman kept a beer shop and demanded that Father O'Moore pay her for a supply of beer. Two or three persons then assaulted him and a regular fight ensued.

The Catholic Emancipation Act placed restrictions on religious orders. They could exist but could not expand by recruiting from abroad. The restriction was a dead letter from the start, a sop to the strength of Protestant opinion in Britain. It was taken for granted that the Act applied only to male religious orders. No restrictions were placed on female religious orders.

By 1850 there were fifty religious orders of women, many of the nuns or sisters of mercy taught in schools. However, it was the convents which aroused suspicion among Protestants, fearing that young girls might be held unwillingly behind the convent walls.

On 12 June 1852 the *Sussex Agricultural Express* reported that the Protestant women of Croydon had raised a petition in favour of placing conventual establishments under civil magistrates and be open to inspectors

so that no individual may be received, detained or dismissed without the magistrates' authority. Inspecting convents was 'to make sure that no nuns were being entombed alive, exploited for the sake of their money, or otherwise abused'.[6] Bills to have convents inspected were introduced in the House of Commons in 1851 and 1852 but failed to pass into law.

Five years after the Maynooth controversy another took place. The furore it caused in 1850 and 1851 exceeded that caused by Maynooth and was more wide-ranging. It involved not only the Pope but also the Prime Minister and a Cardinal. The name of this second controversy is known as the Papal Aggression. A more sober name might be Ecclesiastical Titles.

The Catholic Emancipation Act made it a punishable offence for any Catholic Archbishop, Bishop or Dean to use as his title any name, style or title already in use in the Church of England and Ireland and in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Put more simply, the territorial titles, the place names, had to be different. Anglican bishops had and still use such territorial titles as, for example, Canterbury, York, Durham, Winchester and London.

Since the Reformation the Catholic Church had had no bishops in the United Kingdom. What the Church had were at first four, then eight and finally twelve vicars apostolic who had the rank but not the title of bishop.

By 1845 the question of restoring the Catholic hierarchy was mooted by the vicars apostolic and the matter was brought to the attention of Pope Pius IX. The matter had to be deferred till 1850 as he had had to escape from Rome for his own safety because of the revolution there.

Pius IX obeyed what the Emancipation Act forbade. The new episcopal sees (dioceses) were named after places such as Hexham, Birmingham and Clifton and, significantly, Westminster. The Pope chose Nicholas Wiseman, one of the vicars apostolic, to be Archbishop of Westminster and made him a Cardinal. Wiseman's distinguished ecclesiastical career had been divided between England and Rome.

None of this had met with objections from the English government under its Whig Prime Minister, Lord John Russell.

What followed was the result of the injudicious language of the Cardinal and the equally injudicious reactions of the Prime Minister, 'carried away by one of those emotional outbursts which chequered so oddly his career', oddly because of his hitherto 'record of support of religious toleration'.[7]

Before returning to England from Rome Wiseman issued a Pastoral Letter 'Out of the Flaminian Gate of Rome' on 7 October 1850 but only read out in

Catholic churches in his archdiocese on 17 October. Its language was euphoric. '…till such time as the Holy See shall think otherwise to provide, we govern, and continue to govern, the counties of Middlesex, Hertford and Essex…and those of Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Berkshire, and Hampshire' and in more florid language it continued 'Catholic England has been restored to its orbit in the ecclesiastical firmament, from which its light had long vanished…'.[8] Much more of the same followed.

Queen Victoria reputedly asked 'Am I Queen of England or am I not?'

The Times printed the Pastoral Letter on 22 October. Its leader was 'of rare severity, fastening upon the use of a Westminster title…one of the grossest acts of folly and impertinence which the court of Rome has ventured to commit since the crown and people of England threw off its yoke…'.[9] Such sentiments were repeated in other newspapers.

On November 4 Lord John Russell wrote to the Bishop of Durham, condemning the Pastoral Letter and such like as 'a pretension of supremacy over the realm of England, and a claim to sole and undivided sway, which is inconsistent with the Queen's supremacy…'.[10]

His letter to the Bishop then directed his ire to Anglican clergymen who had adopted Catholic beliefs and practices but that is beyond the scope of this article.

The next day, 5 November, was of course Guy Fawkes Day commemorating the event in 1605 when radical English Catholics tried to assassinate King James I by blowing up the House of Lords. However, Lord Russell's letter was not published till afterwards so he cannot be blamed for the displays of public anger which occurred on that and the ensuing days.

Croydon's reaction to the Pastoral Letter was twofold. The first was formal and it was not a petition but a Memorial.

In mid-November Croydon's inhabitants drew up a Memorial to be sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury. In similar fashion to a petition, the Memorial was handed round the town for signatures. It read:-

'We the undersigned inhabitants of the parish of Croydon in the county of Surrey

Having heard with concern and indignation of the recent aggressive act of the Bishop of Rome upon our Church, and upon the Queen's Prerogative, in presuming to parcel out the country into Romish Sees with the avowed purpose of restoring the Papal Church, with its corrupt faith and its spiritual tyranny.

We desire to testify to your Grace our firm and unalterable attachment to our Reformed National Church, and to guard to the utmost of our power its rights

and privileges, to uphold the lawful authority of our Gracious Queen against the assaults of foreign and usurped dominions, and to maintain inviolate the pure faith, and hold fast the religious freedom, which, under the blessing of God, were recovered for us by our Protestant forefathers.'

The second was part serious, part playful. Moreover, the date on which it occurred was not, as most others were, timed for Bonfire Night, the 5th of November.

On the 22 December the leader of the *Weekly Chronicle* regretted that Surrey's 'animus' had been belated but was now making up for it, finding expression in the bonfires and exhibition in Croydon.

This alludes to what happened in Croydon as reported in the *Sussex Agricultural Express* on 21 December, describing the Anti-Papal demonstration there.

'An extraordinary exhibition took place on Tuesday evening last, the promotors being some young men fond of fun, and perhaps anxious to show themselves in some of Mr. Nathan's[11] masquerading attire. The exhibition, the placards were plentifully distributed in the neighbourhood. The procession consisted of some eight or ten persons in mock armour, with wooden battle axes and masks, together with a small contingent of monks, priests, etc. The procession was formed at Mr. Laing's[12], the George the fourth, George-Street, and was headed by a boy riding on a donkey and dressed in a fantastic garb, intended to represent a sister of mercy, next following a brass band, and the men in armour, and after them cane a colossal representation of the Pope, some ten feet high, and closely attended by an effigy of Cardinal Wiseman: after these came the monks and the mob, the whole party parading the town from one extremity to the other (all the shops in the line of the procession being closed), their final destination being Duppa's Hill, on the cricket ground of which a large pile of combustibles, consisting of tar-barrels, bavins, etc, had been erected, and in the midst of the pile, a gallows some 25 or 30 feet, was placed. When the procession arrived at the end of the pilgrimage, the figures of the Pope and Cardinal Wiseman, were after some delay, hoisted on the gibbet, side by side, and the bonfire was lighted. Owing to a very high wind which prevailed at the time, the two figures most obstinately, as it appeared, declined having anything to do with the flames, and swung high and unsinged above the burning pile. This state of affairs, however, was soon set to rights by a long pole being procured, and the figures, by means to a light attached to the end of it, were soon set in a blaze. Then came the display of a few roman candles, squibs and crackers, after which, without the slightest disturbance, the spectators, to the number of at least 5,000, quietly dispersed, and the pageant

ended by the return of the procession into the town: three cheers being given to the Queen, as a wind-up to a piece of display as extraordinary perhaps, as has been committed by the quiet folk of Croydon, for many years past.'

So the revels ended. It may have been the last of such. What happened in Croydon and elsewhere recalls earlier days when revels were accompanied by drinking, dancing and feasting, with maypoles, church ales and ringing of bells and on such occasions as Whitsun and Midsummer Day.

Why such an 'exhibition' in Croydon was belated, it is impossible to say. There was not, as in some other places, any damage to property or violence to persons.

Finally, in January, as one might expect, a petition against Papal aggression was signed by 3,737 Croydon inhabitants was forwarded to the Home Office.[13]

It would be another twenty years before anything resembling Maynooth or Papal Aggression occurred. That was when the doctrine of Papal Infallibility was pronounced at the Vatican Council in 1870. Yet it did not arouse the extent of anti-Catholicism as on the previous occasions. 'The public at large were not greatly stirred.'[14] Anti-Catholicism, of course, continued in Croydon after 1852 among the public but it was a prejudice which went unrecorded.

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[1] *Morning Chronicle*, 17 May 1825
[2] D. G. Paz, *Popular Anti-Catholicism in Mid-Victorian England* (Stanford University Press 1992)p61
[3] E.R. Norman, *Anti-Catholicism in Victorian England*, (George Allen and Unwin, 1968)p13
[4] Paz, *op.cit*. p32
[5] Rev. W. H. McLauchlin, *The Foundation of St Mary's, Croydon (*privately published,1938) I have relied on my notes taken many years ago.
[6] Paz*, op.cit*. p17
[7] Elie Halévy, *A History of the English People in the Nineteenth Century – IV, Victorian Years, 1841-1895* (Ernest Benn Limited,1961)p369
[8] G. M. Young and W. D. Handcock (eds) *English Historical Documents 1833-1874* Vol 12 (1) (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1956)pp365-6
[9] Owen Chadwick, *The Victorian Church, Part 1 1829-1859*, Third Edition (SCM Press Ltd, 1971)p292
[10] E. R. Norman, *op.cit*. p160
[11] Unidentified
[12] William Laing, landlord from 1843 to 1853
[13] *Sussex Agricultural Express*, 11 January 1851
[14] E. R. Norman*, op.cit.* p81

Extracts from the Morning Post in 1835 by Brian Lancaster

[Captain Richard Alsager[1] was elected M.P. for Surrey East on 19 January 1835. Polling took place at Croydon, Camberwell, Kingston and Reigate.]

At an early hour the road from London to Croydon presented a most lively scene. Carriages and horsemen loaded with laurels and favors[2] were proceeding to Streatham to meet Captain Alsager, and escort him to Croydon. At Broad Green they were met by electors from other parts of the county…The line reached at least a mile and a half, and upwards of 150 carriages were in the train.

Five hundred gentlemen, including the moral worth, wealth, and respectability of the eastern division of the county of Surrey, entertained their recently elected Representative, Captain Alsager, in the banquetting[3] hall of the ancient Archiepiscopal Palace at Croydon last night. The banquetting room was tastefully and appropriately decorated with national flags and emblems of similar description. Over the Chair was a bust of the King, flanked on either side by busts of the Duke of Wellington, the Earl of Eldon, Lord Nelson, and the Right Hon. William Pitt. Directly over the Chair occupied by the Croupier[4], was suspended a capital portrait of his Grace the Duke of Wellington. In a gallery contiguous to the roof of the hall was stationed an excellent band of music, and in the windows opposite were several Ladies of the District.

While they were sitting in that ancient hall, the hall of the Archbishop of Canterbury in days of yore, it was impossible to forget the toast proposed "The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Clergy of the Established Churches of England and Ireland".

The Chairman left the Chair at 9.30. The dinner was excellent, and the wine of the best quality.

Notes

[1] Captain Alsager was first elected in 1835. He died in 1841. He lived in Upper Tooting.
[2] Favor: knot of ribbons, rosette or cockade etc
[3] Banquetting is the spelling used in the newspaper report
[4] Croupier: assistant chairman

Correction: Issue 175 Spring 2023 page 9
The image shown is not © Debbie Simmons but was in fact reproduced with her kind permission as owner.

Old Palace: The Saxon Estate Used by Archbishops and Monarchs by Thomas Burke of Wallington Grammar School introduced by Trevor James

As Director of the Young Historian Project, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Thomas Burke who is one of the winners of this year's Young Historian Awards for Local History. Thomas's award was for his essay on the Archbishop's Palace. Thomas attends Wallington Grammar School and lives in Croydon. It is my role to encourage and celebrate young historians, so I am particularly pleased to congratulate Thomas and to present his essay.

TMJ

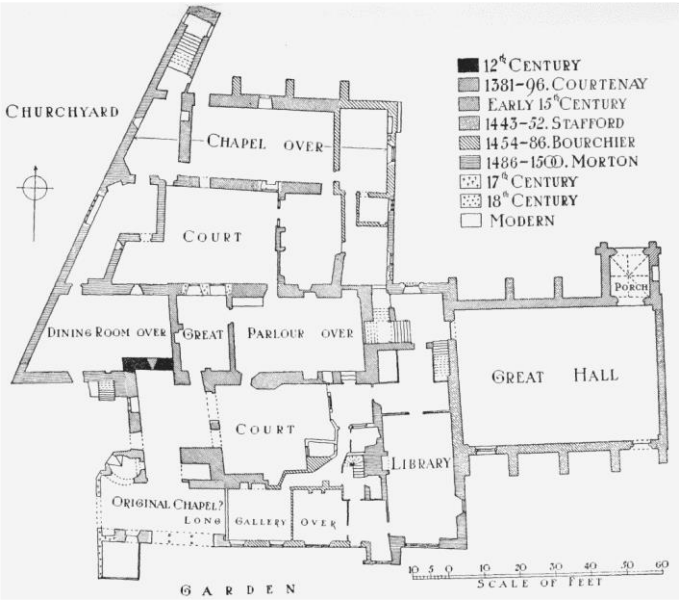
Old Palace: The Saxon Estate Used by Archbishops and Monarchs

The Old Palace: an estate used as the summer residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury for over 500 years, regularly visited by monarchs Henry III and Elizabeth I and dated back to before the year 960. Previously known as 'Croydon Palace', it is a remarkable building with a fascinating past, its preservation over the centuries leaving residents of Croydon with an estate

that reaches back into the depths of British history.

How early Archbishops began to use the Old Palace as a residence is uncertain; the first dated account of it being used is from Archbishop Kilwardby in 1273; yet, with the building being centuries old by that time, it could well have been used before then. However, the palace as it stands today is largely composed of 15th and 16th century buildings, due to a larger palace being required to host the Archbishop's many retinues and guests. As a result, the location of the original manor house is unknown. Its primary use was that of a summer residence for Archbishops, but it also served as one of many estates that were staging posts between Canterbury and Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury since the 13th Century.

The constructions that the Old Palace went under completely transformed the original building. The Guard Room (which today is a library) was founded by Archbishop Thomas Arundel (1396-1414) and is one of the earliest examples of brick being used in Britain.



In the middle of the 15th Century, Archbishop Stafford (who died in 1452) constructed the centrepiece of the Old Palace, The Great Hall. Measuring 56 by 38 feet, the roof is arch-braced with stone supports. The Hall is split into four bays (bays meaning the distance between each support in a building with a pitched roof) by the roof principals, with the material used for the walling being flint rubble. Its most impressive feature is perhaps the corbels.

At the bases of the wall posts: they are sculpted angels, holding shields with the coats of arms of Stafford and other aristocrats depicted on them, including the Duke of York (1415 - 60). In the 17th Century, Archbishop Juxon remodelled

the Hall to meet contemporary requirements, such as replacing its fabric.

The Chapel itself was rebuilt in the late 15th century by Archbishop Bourchier and, when renovated in the 17th Century by Archbishops Juxon and Laud (who was executed at the end of the First English Civil War in 1645), was kept in the style of the 1400s. Indeed, when canopied stalls were added to the southern side of the entrance in the 18th century by Juxon, they used parts of Bourchier's original stalls.

The chapel boasts a dark-oak gallery pew, often referred to as the 'Elizabeth's pew', and has a Norman font, a gift from St. George's Church in the Victorian era. In Dickens's 'Little Dorrit', Little Dorrit is Christened in a font in St. George's Church, meaning the same font in the renowned novel, is in the Old Palace's Chapel.

The Old Palace, though known for its links to Archbishops, is also heavily linked to the lives of monarchs. Spanish princess Katherine of Aragon was once married to the heir to the throne of England, Arthur, Prince of Wales, elder brother of King Henry VIII. After his untimely death in 1502, she moved from Ludlow to Croydon Palace on May 4th. Her stay there was a troubled one; Spanish sovereigns Ferdinand and Isabella were desperate to maintain an alliance with England and so wanted a marriage between Katherine and Henry; the crucial point that could have prevented this was whether or not Katherine was pregnant with Arthur's child as, if she was, it would have been sacrilegious and have gone against canon law for her to have married Henry. By July, they were certain that she could not be pregnant and by November 6th she was living in Durham House, awaiting her marriage to Henry. Her stay in Croydon Palace was a turning point in not only her life but for England; Henry VIII would go on to divorce Katherine, resulting in a break between Rome and the Church in England, marking the beginning of a new era of religion in the nation.

The Old Palace was also visited on numerous occasions by other monarchs, including Henry VI, Henry VII, James I, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth I. In fact, there is a room in the Old Palace named 'Queen Elizabeth's Room'; she visited the estate many times, including for a week in July 1573, and always travelled with her bed. The room it was set down in, a first-floor space with a porch on the southern elevation, became 'Queen Elizabeth's Room'. They all dined in the Great Hall, and sat on Stafford's stone throne, an intricately designed throne on the west wall.

The Old Palace's luxury and prestigious nature were soon to end, with Croydon's population rapidly growing, resulting in parts of the area becoming slumlike and the building itself becoming dilapidated. Archbishop Wake in 1715 advocated for its destruction, though he went on to reconstruct the Long Gallery and Archbishop Herring continued to support the building. However, by 1780 it had been uninhabited for 20 years and so a law was passed, allowing it to be sold and for Addington Palace to be bought in 1807 as a replacement. At this point, demolition was likely for the Old Palace. However, after being bought by Abraham Pitchers of Streatham for £2,520 at an auction, it was saved from this fate. By 1818, it had become a linen factory, the garden a bleaching ground.

Eventually, sections of the palace were used for private residencies, the chapel became a girl's school of industry and the Great Hall became a laundry. Due to certain events that transpired during this time, only the parts used by archbishops still remain today: in 1805, three different railways cut through the palace grounds, creating today's Church Road; the porter's lodge was destroyed in 1806 and the kitchens followed suit in 1810; due to bankruptcy in 1832, lots were sold, leading to the demolition of the east side of the quadrangle; and part of the land was converted into a graveyard. Eventually, the Old Palace returned to the market, being sold to Henry Pelham-Clinton, Duke of Newcastle (aged 21), who gifted it to the Sisters of the Church, a religious community in the Anglican Church of women who devote themselves to obedience to God, chastity and obedience. The Sisters of the Church used the building to form The Old Palace of John Whitgift School, an independent girl's school which remains at The Old Palace to this day.

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4. London history: The lost Croydon palace that was so beautiful kings and queens had their own rooms. – MyLondon

"Sailor Out On A Spree"
by Ron Brooker

In Victorian and Edwardian times it was the norm for provincial newspapers to carry reports on items not relating to their locale that may be of interest to their readers. Sometimes the item may have been a small paragraph or even just a few lines. Such items filled out the newspaper to avoid blank spaces, whereas today newspapers tend to fill out the pages with photographs and very limited text. Earlier this year, my local newspaper the *Isle of Wight County Press* under a page entitled 'Memories' looked back on Island news of old.

In those bye-gone days under such titles as The Week's News or Town and County News, the old *County Press* covered news items that evidently ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. A number of items from the period were given as examples, but one that caught my eye was a 1906 report. "A sailor dressed as a fashionable lady badly beat three constables who tried to arrest him at Croydon on Tuesday,"

Upon looking into the matter, it appeared that it was also noted in several other provincial newspapers in a small way, as well as at length in the local Croydon press. The headings used to catch the reader's eye were such as "When Jack's Ashore. Disorderly Conduct at Croydon. Serious Injury to a Constable"; "A Sailor's Spree. Scene in North End. A Constable's Sight Injured"; "Obstreperous Sailor Disguised as a Lady"; "Portsmouth Sailor's Escapade" and "Sailor in Woman's Clothes".

From the local Croydon newspapers it appears that on the afternoon of Tuesday 5th June 1906, between the hours of four and five o'clock at the railway bridge between North End and London Road a fine-looking athletic young sailor named William Ward, of H.M.S. Canopus, who was making his way to the railway station, was seen masquerading in a woman's dress and wig. One provincial newspaper said that the costume he was wearing was of a pale blue material, not altogether after the Parisian fashion, and the head adornment was an ordinary plain straw hat. It was evidently the gait of the stranger that attracted the attention of Police Constable Moore, who had suspicions, which turned out to be correct, for upon accosting the "female", he found that "she" was a "he", none other than a sturdy man-of-war's man, who apparently said he was "having a spree".

An arrest was made for masquerading in feminine attire, which at that time was seen as disorderly conduct within the meaning of the law. The powerful young sailor at first went quietly, but then turned obstinate, making a brutal attack on the constable and, as it was put, soon "*hors de combat*". The prisoner struck the constable four or five deliberate blows in the eye with his fist, the

force of one blow sending him against the brickwork of the bridge. Help was given by a passer-by who held on to the prisoner who spat in his face a number of times. Other constables arrived who took charge of the prisoner, and a large crowd followed all the way along North End and High Street to the police station. One provincial newspaper reported that when stopped, the supposed "lady" replied in gruff tones, fought like an expert boxer and that it took six or seven constables to convey "her" to the police station, and that in the struggle a fine curly wig fell to the ground, the silk dress was torn to ribbons, and the supposed "lady" was disclosed as a very powerful built man.

On the Wednesday morning, at the Borough Police Court, William Ward aged 22, was placed in the dock. He was perfectly calm and looked as the report put it "every inch a sailor" as he stood in the naval uniform of one of His Majesty's ships. The charges against him were for behaving in a disorderly manner by being found dressed in female attire, and further with inflicting grievous bodily harm upon Police Constable Moore. In giving evidence, Moore stated that upon noticing the prisoner did not look like a female and stopping him and questioning him, the reply was "I am a sailor having a spree". After giving a description of what subsequently occurred, asked if he wished to question the witness, the prisoner said that there were about 40 civilians hitting him at the time. Apparently at the time of the incident the prisoner might have had some drink but was sober. The Chief Inspector asked for a remand as the doctor despaired of the sight of the constable's eye as it was feared that he may lose it. A second witness also gave an account of what transpired. On the application of the Chief Inspector, the prisoner was remanded in custody for a week, with the police authorities notifying his captain that he was not deserting.

What the Croydon newspaper reports do not say is why he came to the town, where he was staying and how he managed to appear in court dressed in a naval uniform the day after the incident – was he a local chap and why did he do it?

The outcome of the incident was that Ward was fined 20s (one pound) by the Borough Bench, and upon his return to Portsmouth was sentenced by the Naval authorities to ninety-three days' imprisonment, loss of three months pay, and the forfeiture of his decorations.

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A Postcard of Wellesley Road in 2007
by Carole A. Roberts

Wellesley Road, Croydon. CNHSS Croydon Series C5/07. Photograph by John Gent.

John Gent's 2007 view looking north from the George Street roundabout shows the southern end of Wellesley Road Croydon. The buildings on the left are those from Electric House curving round to the former Prospect West (now Interchange Croydon). Those on the right include the former St Anne House and Jury's Inn, and Lunar House. In the centre the underpass carries traffic 23 feet (7 metres) beneath the roundabout north and south and on the right a tram travels towards East Croydon Station.

This road was once known as Newgate Lane, which by the early 19th century was generally abbreviated to New Lane. This route was off the beaten track in Croydon and was sparsely populated. In the late 18th century much of the land was held by John Dingwall esq or by Richard Walpole esq.

Only eight households were listed in New Lane in the 1851 Croydon Directory. However during that year the then major landowners, banker Thomas Leedham Robinson and corn merchant Edward Russell, sold nearly 50 acres of Dingwall Estate land surrounding their houses 'of a most superior quality both in feature and soil – occupying nearly the entire area between

the two railway stations'. By this time Croydon's successful traders and businessmen increasingly sought to move away from the busy High Street and development of the back roads began in earnest.

In 1855 references to the Wellesley name appeared, when the owner of Wellesley House on the west (left on the postcard) side of Wellesley Road asked the Local Board of Health to divert the drain in Wellesley Road away from his pond. In 1860 the large and small Public Halls moved from Crown Hill to the corner with George Street, which on the postcard is just out of view on the right. The Public Halls were primarily the home of the Croydon Literary and Scientific Institution (later shared by Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society).

The Public Halls at the corner of Wellesley Road and George Street, around 1913. © The John Gent Collection jg-pc-cc-610

The location in 2017

By 1868 other Wellesley Road residences included The Elms, The Homestead and Netherton. In 1871 the Whitgift School was built in North End and the back entrance and playing fields faced onto Wellesley Road. The Croydon High School for Girls had opened in 1874 in North End under Dorinda Neligan, and their new building opened in May 1880 on the east (right hand) side of Wellesley Road. In 1881 they also opened a new boarding house in the road.

Beyond Poplar Walk were the Alhambra Public House, built by 1881, and the Free Christian Church, in an iron church from 1870 and in a permanent building by 1883. Beyond Station Road was St Mary's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Girls which opened in 1886. In 1898 Pembroke Hall was being built on the east side of the road just past Bedford Park.

Thomas Leedham Robinson continued to live at Dingwall House, on the west side of the road near the junction with George Street, until 1875 when he left Croydon and the house was put out to rent. In 1887 Dingwall Avenue was being built and Dingwalls, as it was now known, was up for sale. The following year the Church Institute moved in. In 1898 the Church Institute moved into its adjoining Braithwaite Hall and St Agnes Home for disabled girls, which in 1914 was visited by Queen Mary, moved into the main building.

Wellesley Road looking north around 1910 showing on the right, the Public Halls, which by now were shared by Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society, and on the left, shops and the location of St Agnes Home which was set back from the road. © The John Gent Collection jg-pc-cp-086

St Agnes Home, the former Dingwall House, on the site of the future Electric House, around 1927. © The John Gent Collection jg-pc-ms-210

There seemed little appetite for Wellesley House as a private residence after the departure of its notorious occupant Jabez Spencer Balfour by 1892, and it was mainly unoccupied before becoming a lodge for the Girls' Friendly Society, and the Whitgift School's Headmaster's house moved to part of its land. Throughout the first decades of the twentieth century Croydon High School for Girls continued to acquire buildings in Wellesley Road. Netherton became the Labour Party headquarters Ruskin House, and from 1932 the building beside it was the Croydon Repertory Theatre. When Whitgift Grammar School moved to Haling Park in 1931 it was replaced by Whitgift Middle School, later Trinity School of John Whitgift. The road was widened and straightened where opportunities arose, chiefly in the region of Wellesley House, but the buildings of this southern part of Wellesley Road remained much the same.

In 1937 it was announced that Croydon Corporation Electricity Department's offices and showroom, Electric House, had outgrown its High Street location and would move to the site of St Agnes Home in Wellesley Road. Work on the £100,000 building project was nearly complete when in 1939 the approaching war necessitated strengthening the basement for an air raid shelter, and the building only became fit for occupation in October 1941. From September 1942 'Kitchen Front' demonstrations were held weekly at the new Electric House, Croydon's 'Kitchen Front' campaign having been launched in 1940 for advice on rationing problems. By 1962 with rationing over the demonstrations, by now under Seeboard, included Danish blue cheese and bacon flan, Duchess potatoes and corn on the cob with kebabs.

In the 1940s buildings that had been damaged in the war fell out of use and were subsequently demolished – Ruskin House, and the Croydon Repertory Theatre beside it; and the Free Christian Church, on the land of which was built West Croydon Bus Station.

In 1939 Croydon YMCA had acquired a private house at no 28 Wellesley Road in preparation for rebuilding and relocating there. The new building opened in 1958 with sporting facilities for men and women. From 1959 to 1962 Pembroke Hall enjoyed a period as Croydon's only theatre, the Pembroke Theatre, which was an early theatre-in-the-round.

However the major redevelopment of Wellesley Road came in the wake of the Greater London Plan of 1944 to build on vacant land, the County Borough of Croydon becoming its own planning authority in 1947, and the 1950s need for decentralisation of office space from central London. The Croydon Corporation Act of 1956 enabled compulsory purchase of land at the corner of George Street with Wellesley Road. Consequently Wellesley Road was at the forefront of commercial redevelopment in Croydon with the completion in

1959 of Norfolk House, the first large scale office and shop building which incorporated an office block (just out of sight on the far right on the postcard). Improving road access and car parking capacity was also a major aim and in preparation for the planned future underpass, Norfolk House was set far back from the road with a very wide pavement in front of it.

Norfolk House in 1959, with a vast pavement before it, before construction of the underpass. *Croydon Official Guide 1961/2* page 28, photographer unknown.

Other land acquisitions and building soon followed. On the east side of the road Black-Clawson House, later known as St Anne House, was built in 1962-3. Prudential House, a 13-storey office block of reinforced concrete frame construction on the corner of Lansdowne Road, was also built in 1962-3. In 1965 land was acquired in Shirley for the now Trinity School of John Whitgift, on the Wellesley Road site of which the 12-acre Whitgift Centre was completed in 1970. This traffic-free shopping precinct of 200 units on two levels was linked by ramps and escalators, and had a central area consisting of courts landscaped with gardens and trees. There were also office blocks including the 22-storey Rothschild House, a service road beneath the centre and a car park for 450 cars. Beside the Whitgift Centre an additional public multi-storey car park for 1,140 cars was built. On the east side of Wellesley Road the nearly square 19-floor Pembroke House was built on the site of the former Pembroke Theatre in 1967. The Government Departments Lunar House and Apollo House were completed in about 1970. On the west side Phoenix House later Meridian House was built about 1971. In the late 1960s

the completion of the underpass helped turn the former two lanes of traffic into six.

With its concentration of 60s and 70s buildings Croydon began to be described as a mini Manhattan. In 1971, only twelve years since the building of Norfolk House, Wellesley Road was looking very much like the road we know today.

Wellesley Road from near Poplar Walk looking south in 1971. *Croydon Official Guide 1971* page 42, photographer Archie Handford.

Building continued although at a slower pace. Voyager House next to Apollo House was built in 1980, Delta Point between Poplar Walk and Station Road about 1985 and Prudential House alongside Dingwall Avenue in 1987. Prospect West next to Station Road was built in 1991-2. Tramlink, completed in 1999, linked West Croydon bus station with East Croydon Railway Station, with a stop on the east side of Wellesley Road.

By the time the postcard view was taken in 2007 the view appears to be entirely of large office blocks. In fact Cambridge House which was out of view on the right was quite small at four storeys, although it has now been replaced by a 26-storey building.

The recent trend in Croydon has been towards the conversion of office blocks into housing or leisure accommodation, with St Anne House now being a residential block called The Quarters, and the tower block of Norfolk House being a hotel.

The main buildings in the area of the postcard image in 1910 and 2007		
	1910	**2007**
Left Side	Church Institute, Braithwaite Hall Wellesley Road St Agnes Home for disabled girls (in Dingwalls, the former Dingwall House)	Electric House, c1941, Grade II listed
	Dingwall Avenue	Dingwall Avenue
	Whitgift Grammar School playing fields. Later Whitgift Middle School from 1931 until 1965 the then Trinity School of John Whitgift moved to Shirley Whitgift School's Headmaster's House built c1902 21 Girls' Friendly Society, Wellesley House Netherton, later Ruskin House	9 Prudential House built 1987 11 Phoenix House later Meridian House, built c1971 15 Advance House The Whitgift Centre, including Rothschild House and the Whitgift car park Public multi-storey car park Green Park House, 7 Poplar Walk
	Poplar Walk	Poplar Walk
	25 Alhambra Public House Private houses Free Christian Church	Alhambra House 35 BT Delta Point c1985
	Station Road	Station Road
	43 Mme Dempsey	Prospect West built 1991-2,

The main buildings in the area of the postcard image in 1910 and 2007		
	1910	**2007**
Left Side	45 St Mary's Industrial School for Roman Catholic Girls	now Interchange Croydon

Right Side	2 Croydon Public Halls: Croydon Literary & Scientific Institution Ltd Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society 4 Chick, Jn Hy photographer 6 Paget Peter 8 Delepine, J M.B. 12 Williams, Bertram A, dental surgeon	Norfolk House – 15 shops and a tower block which is now a Travelodge hotel
	Walpole Road	Wellesley Road leading to Walpole Road
	16 Dukes, Thomas Archibald M.B. surgeon and medical officer No 3 district, Croydon Union 18 Richards, Joseph Stewart M.D. 20 Williamson, William M.D., oculist Vaux, Mrs 26 Glassington, John Henry, dental surgeon	16-18 Cambridge House, a four-storey building, in 2023 in the course of rebuilding as 26-storey Aspect House Wellesley Road tram stop 20 The Quarters, formerly St Anne House/ Black-Clawson House built 1962-3 Leonardo Hotel, formerly Jurys Inn, built 2001. Before that Prudential House built 1962-3
	Lansdowne Road	Lansdowne Road

The main buildings in the area of the postcard image in 1910 and 2007		
	1910	**2007**
Right Side	28 Thrift, William Frank 30 MacFarlane, John Scott, dental surgeon 32 Young, James Bingley 34 Hermann, Mrs 36 & 38 Croydon High School, Girls' Public Day School Trust Lim.	28 formerly the YMCA opened 1958 30-32 Voyager House built 1980 36 Apollo House, Government office, c1970
	Sydenham Road	Sydenham Road
	40 Croydon Conservatoire of Music & Art, moved to Wellesley Road in 1888 (formerly The Homestead and The Elms)	Lunar House, Government office, built 1970
	Bedford Park	Bedford Park
	Pembroke Hall	Formerly Pembroke House built 1967, wasteland in 2007. Now Saffron Square, formerly called Wellesley Square

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1800 Inclosure map of Croydon
Ordnance Survey maps through the National Library of Scotland website https://maps.nls.uk/
For Prudential House at the corner of Lansdowne Road: BFI film 'The new Croydon' at https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-the-new-croydon-1963-online, for the building then in progress and other fascinating glimpses of Croydon in 1962

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY and SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED

Founded in 1870 as the Croydon Microscopical Club

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SOCIETY OBJECTIVES

For the public benefit, to encourage the study of the sciences, especially the natural and local history and archaeology of the Croydon area, by organising lectures, members' talks, discussions, exhibitions, field meetings and surveys, by issuing publications, and by maintaining a library and a museum. The Society is concerned with original investigation, conservation, recording, curation, education, and incidental recreation.

MEETINGS

Unless otherwise stated in our Programme, weekday indoor evening meetings are held in the Small Hall of the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, almost opposite East Croydon Station, at 19:45.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

The Society's own museum and library may be visited by arrangement – please contact 'Information' (see below). Volunteers willing to help with cataloguing the geological and archaeological collection are welcome.

PROGRAMME

For further information and our full programme which includes a list of publications and directory, please go to our website www.cnhss.co.uk

Contacts

Information	email: information@cnhss.co.uk
Twitter	https://twitter.com/cnhssprogramme
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Programme	email: programme@cnhss.co.uk
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Membership	email: membership@cnhss.co.uk
Sales	email: sales@cnhss.co.uk
Company Sec.	email: co-secretary@cnhss.co.uk
Website	https://cnhss.co.uk

The Society's emblem is based on a bronze openwork disc from the fifth or sixth century AD, found in 1893 in a Saxon cemetery in Edridge Road, Croydon. It is a rare example; its function is not certain but it may have been a strap distributor or a sort of brooch. It can be seen at the Museum of Croydon.

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Print code: 2023-176/270